



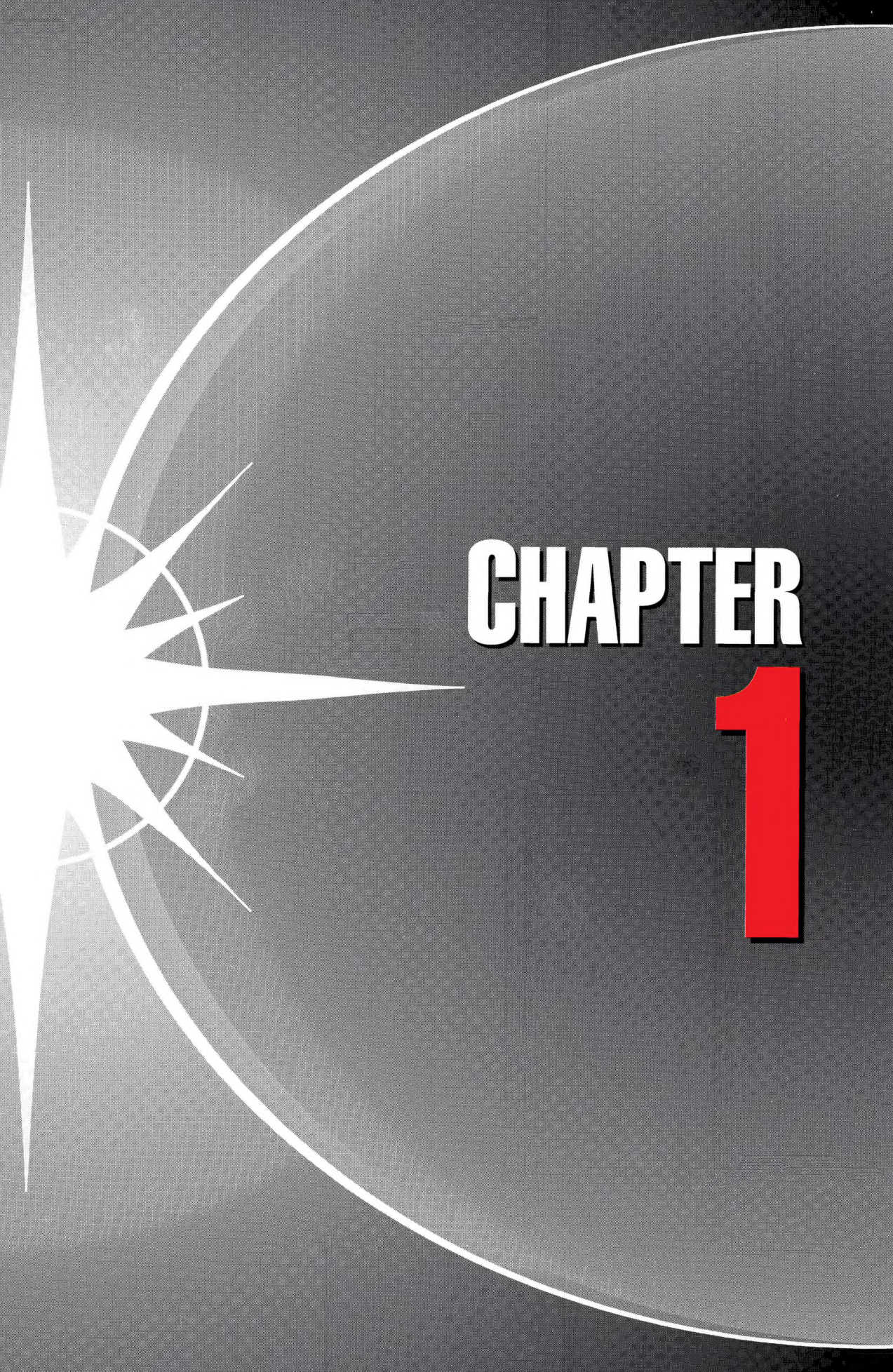
RICHARD BRUNING • ANDY KUBERT • ADAM KUBERT

ADAM STRANGE

BOOK ONE



Andy Kubert



CHAPTER 1

RICHARD BRUNING

WRITER

ANDY KUBERT

ILLUSTRATOR

ADAM KUBERT

COLOR ARTIST

TODD KLEIN

LETTERER

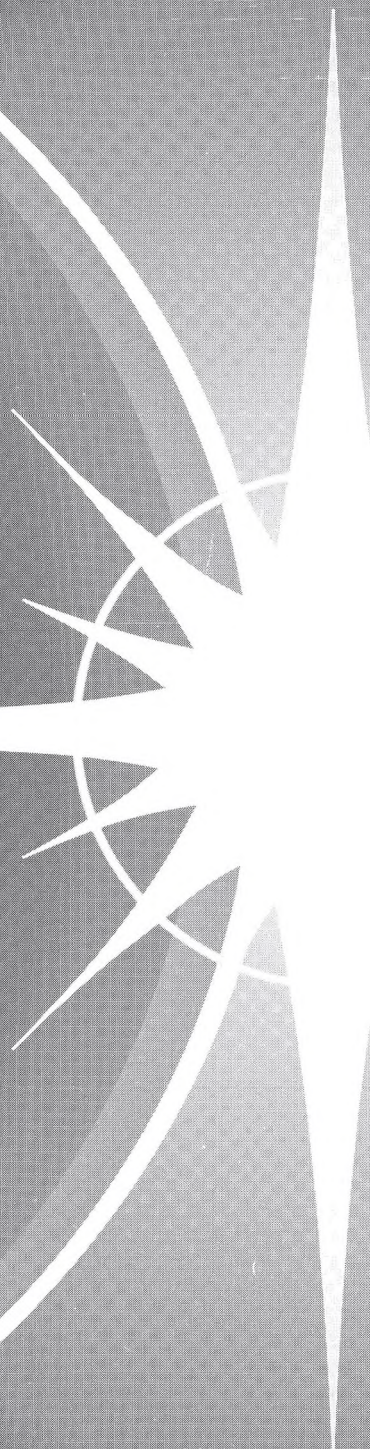
ADAM STRANGE™

THE MAN OF TWO WORLDS

RICHARD BRUNING

& CURTIS KING

PUBLICATION DESIGN



THERE'S SOMETHING
BOTHERING HER. I
CAN TELL.

YOU KNOW,
ADAM, I WAS
THINKING...

HERE IT
COMES...

HMM?

WITH CUSTOMS
SUCH AS THESE,
EARTH MUST BE A
WONDERFUL PLACE
TO LIVE.

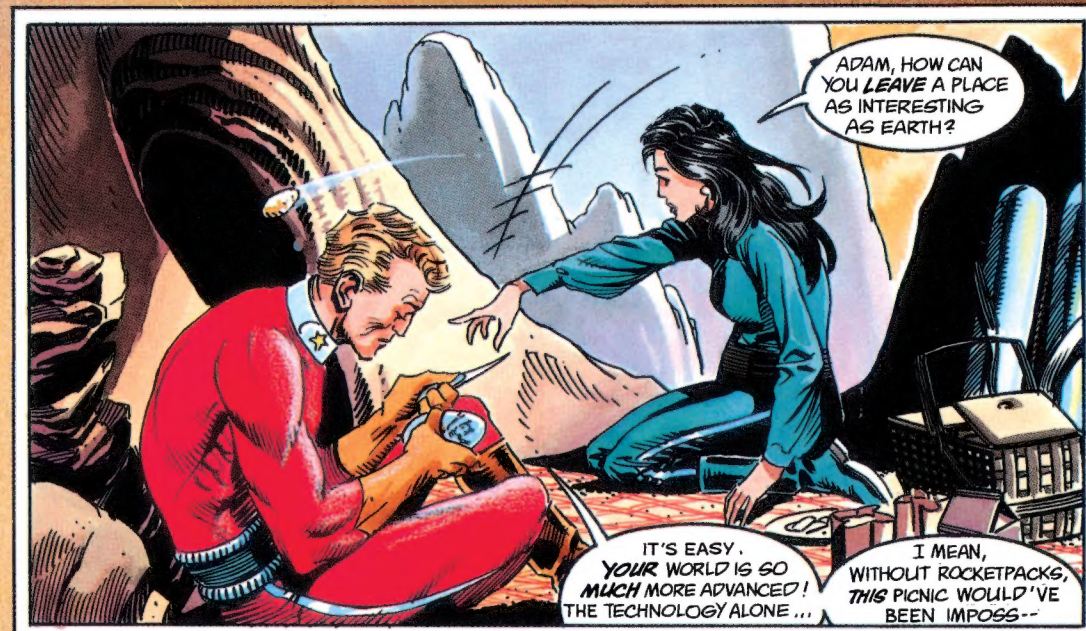
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

PICNICS,
DEAR. THIS
IS FUN!

WELL, ALANNA,
THAT'S 'CAUSE THERE
ARE NO ANTS OR
MOSQUITOS.

WHAT??

THINGS THIS
PLANET IS BLISSFULLY
IGNORANT OF,
MRS. STRANGE.



BUT THAT'S ALL WE
HAVE. MACHINES!
THEY DO
EVERYTHING.

ON EARTH,
EVERYTHING'S
SO ALIVE...
LIKE YOU.

WHOA.
LISTEN.
I'VE MADE MY
DECISION.

NEXT TIME I
COME BACK FROM
EARTH, I'M HERE
FOREVER. IT'LL
BE YOU AND ME...
AND...BABY MAKES
THREE.

I'M WORRIED, ADAM.
THIS NEW ZETA-BEAM...
WHAT IF IT DOESN'T
WORK OR...

DON'T WORRY.
WHEN YOUR DAD
DOES SOMETHING,
IT WORKS.

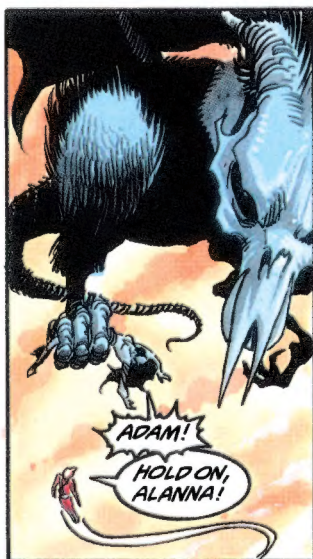
WHEN THE CURRENT
BEAM WEARS OFF, I'LL
BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE
OF MY LAST-MINUTE
BUSINESS ON EARTH.

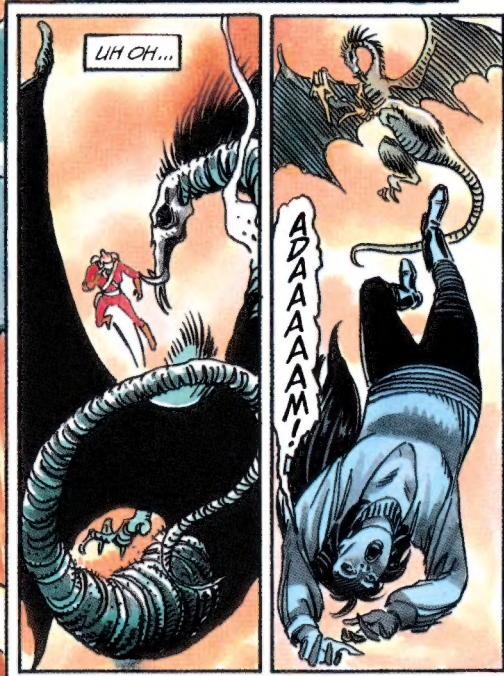
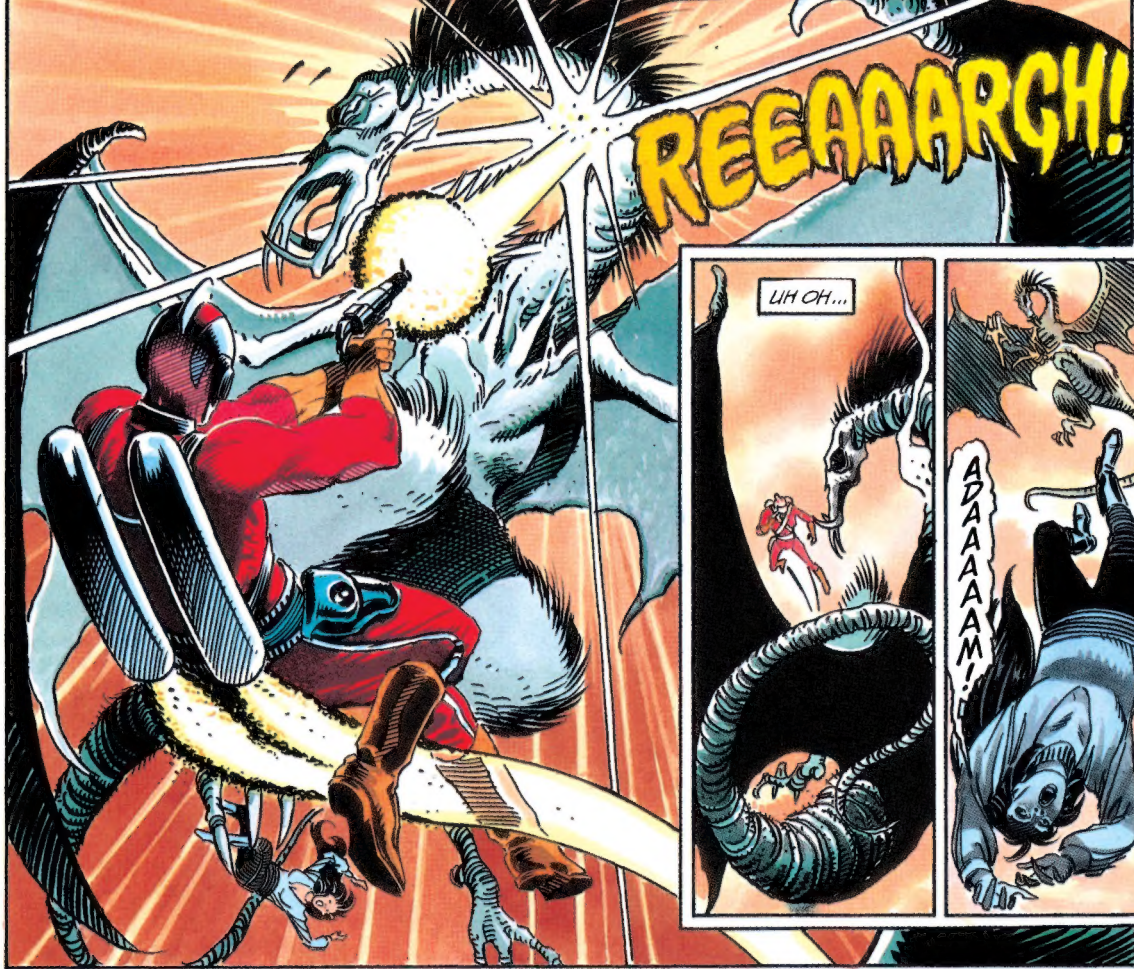
THEN I'LL
CATCH SARDATH'S
SPECIAL "RIDE"
BACK AND...

ZAM!
I'LL BE IN YOUR ARMS
PERMANENTLY!

I...oh?

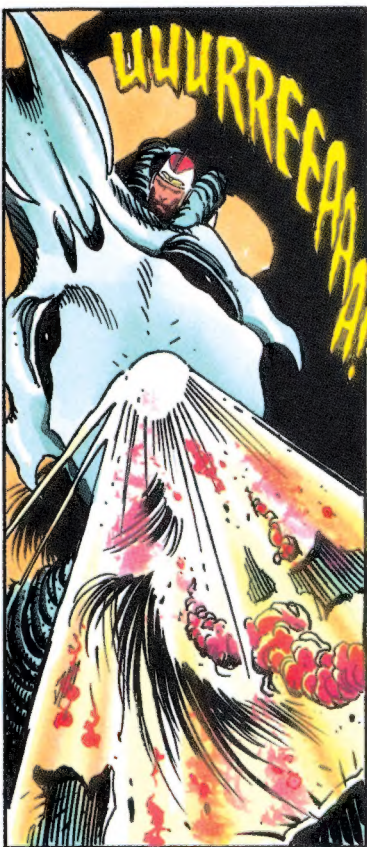
BABY?
WHAT'S WRO--?







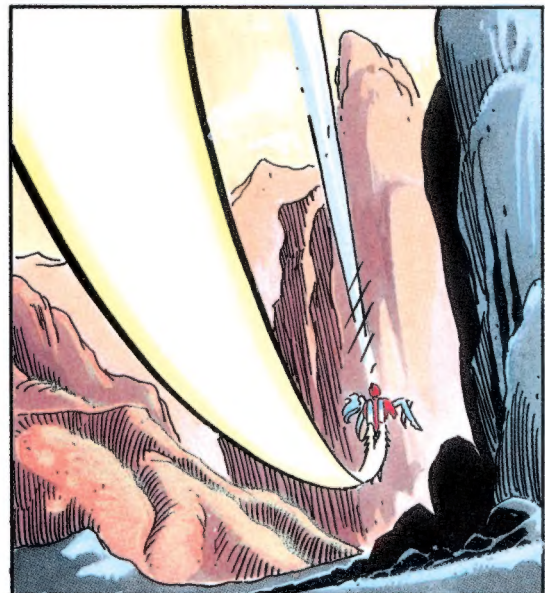
NOW I'M
PISSED--
--AND
YOU'RE DEAD,
PAL!



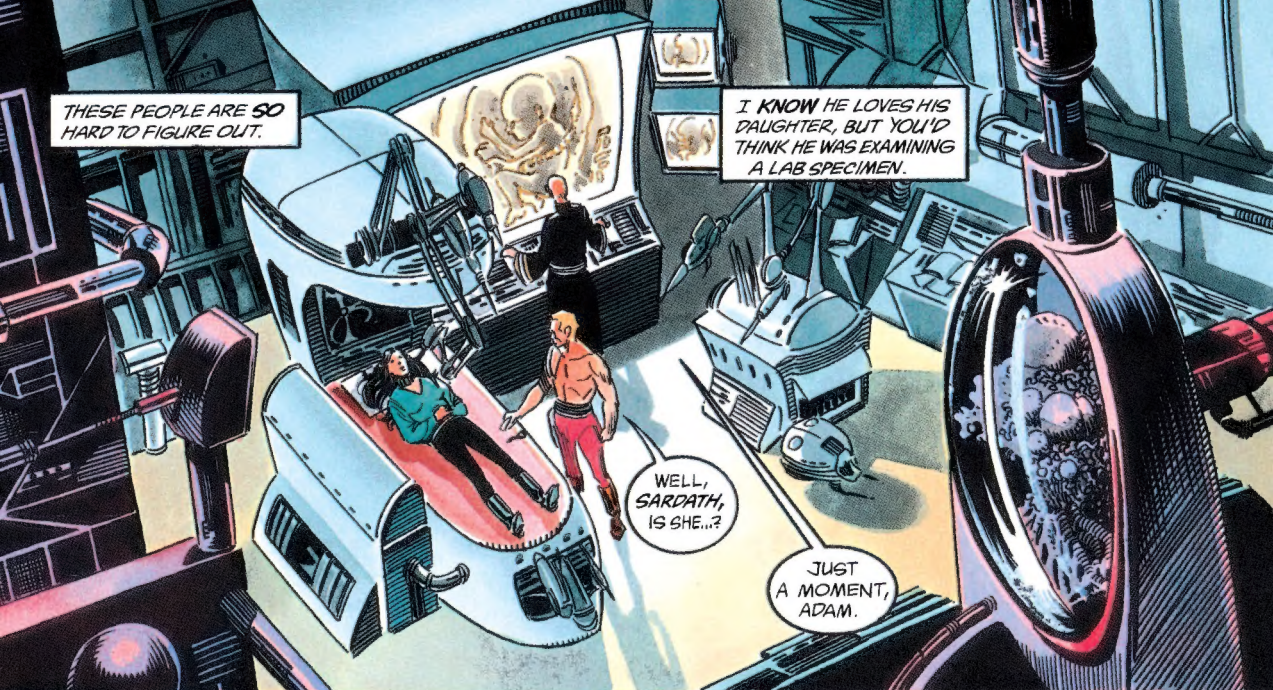
ADAM!
HELP!



NOT A SANE
WAY TO LIVE.



WHY DOES IT
EXCITE ME SO?

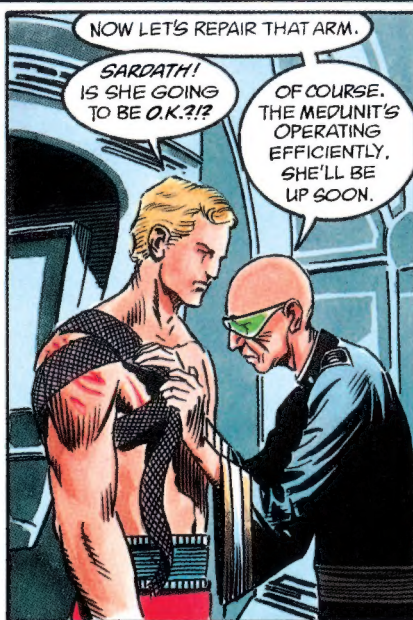


THESE PEOPLE ARE SO HARD TO FIGURE OUT.

I KNOW HE LOVES HIS DAUGHTER, BUT YOU'D THINK HE WAS EXAMINING A LAB SPECIMEN.

WELL, SARDATH, IS SHE...?

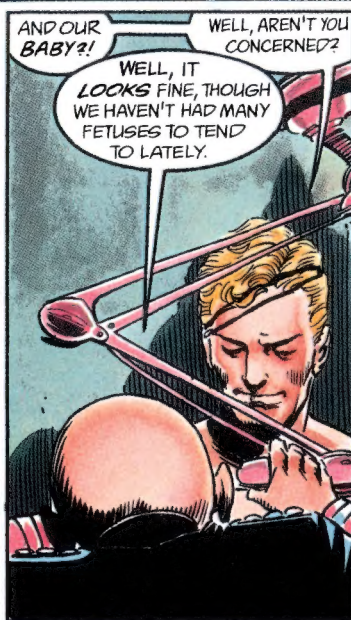
JUST A MOMENT, ADAM.



NOW LET'S REPAIR THAT ARM.

SARDATH! IS SHE GOING TO BE O.K.?!?

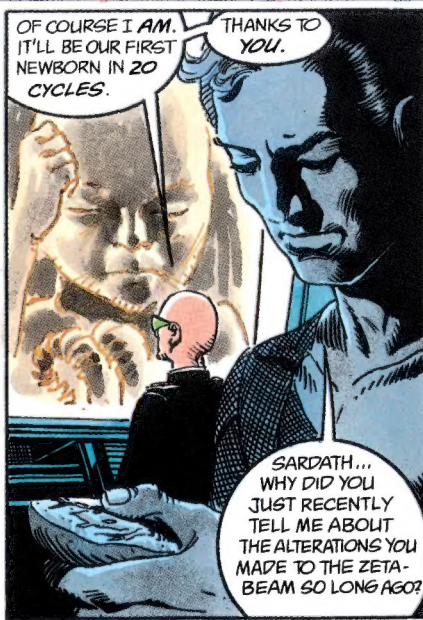
OF COURSE. THE MEDUNIT'S OPERATING EFFICIENTLY. SHE'LL BE UP SOON.



AND OUR BABY?!

WELL, AREN'T YOU CONCERNED?

WELL, IT LOOKS FINE, THOUGH WE HAVEN'T HAD MANY FETUSES TO TEND TO LATELY.



OF COURSE I AM. IT'LL BE OUR FIRST NEWBORN IN 20 CYCLES.

THANKS TO YOU.

SARDATH... WHY DID YOU JUST RECENTLY TELL ME ABOUT THE ALTERATIONS YOU MADE TO THE ZETA-BEAM SO LONG AGO?



DID IT MATTER?

AS YOU KNOW, MY BEAM REQUIRES 4.5 OF YOUR "YEARS" TO REACH EARTH. FORTUNATELY, YOUR TELEPORTATION HERE HAS BEEN FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, INSTANTANEOUS.

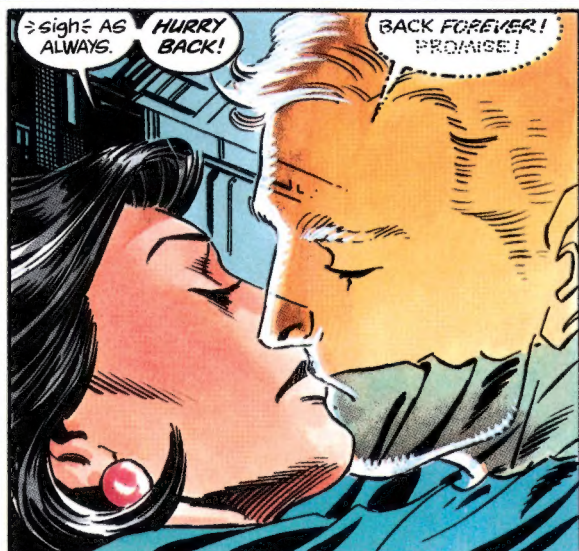
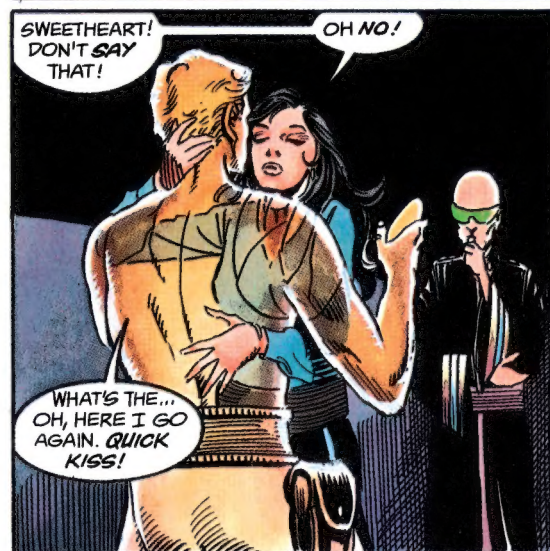
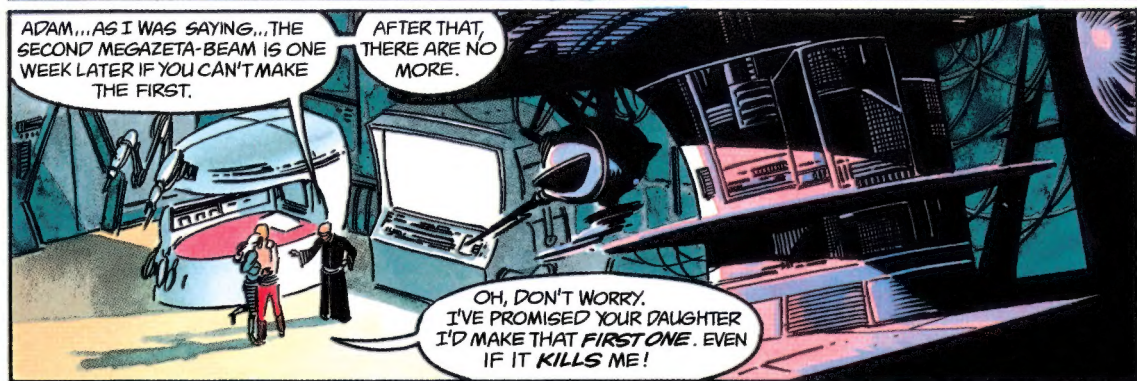
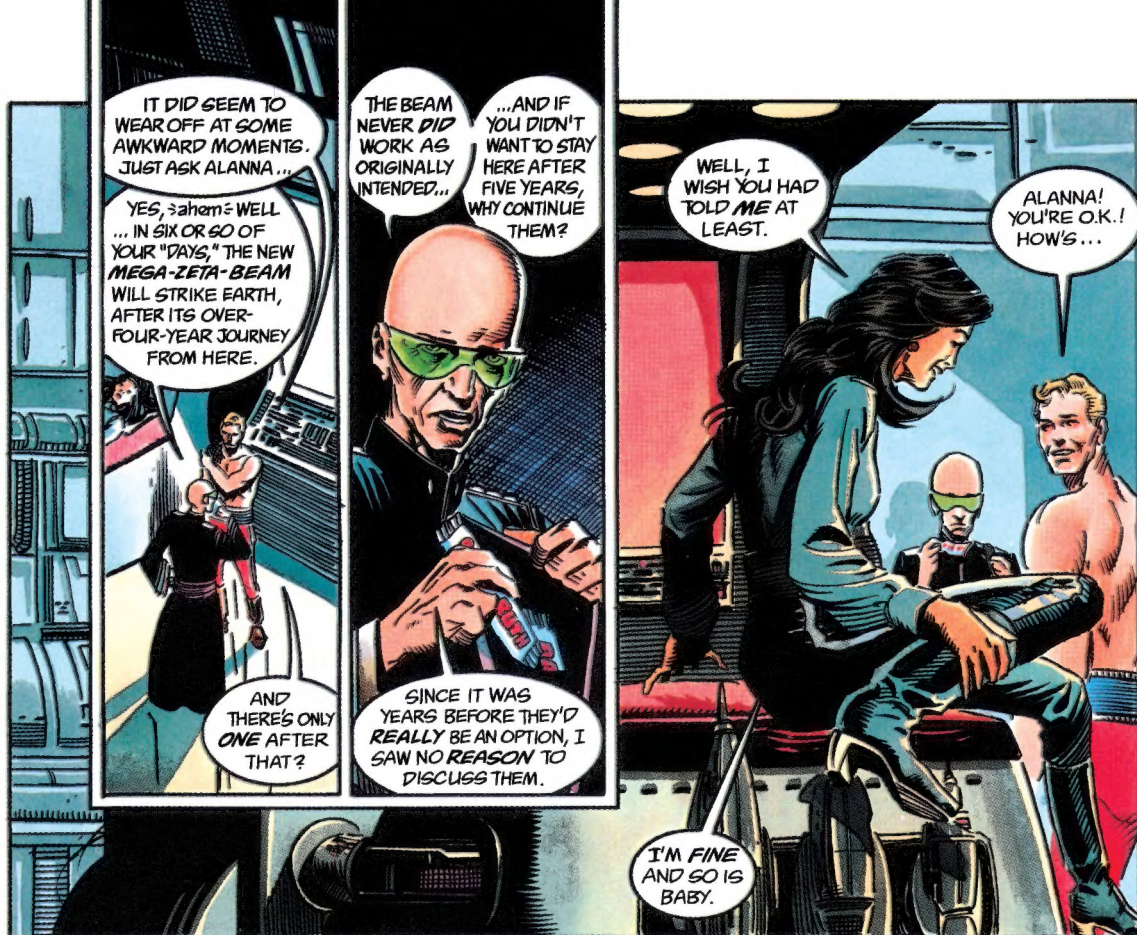
WE HAD BEEN PROJECTING THOSE BEAMS ON A REGULAR BASIS HOPING TO CONTACT ANOTHER INTELLIGENT SPECIES.

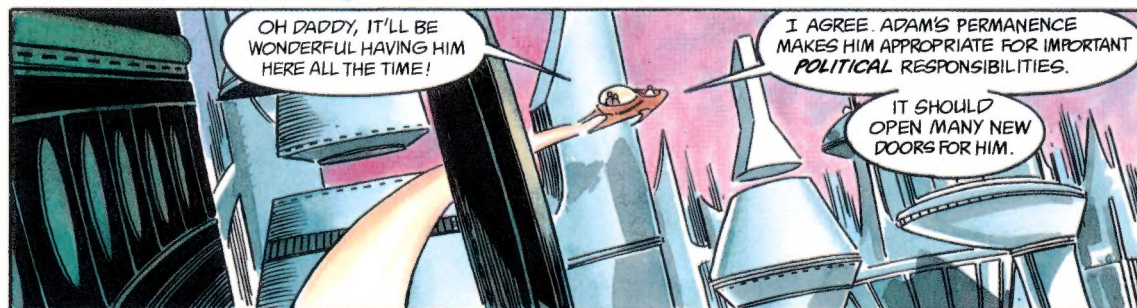
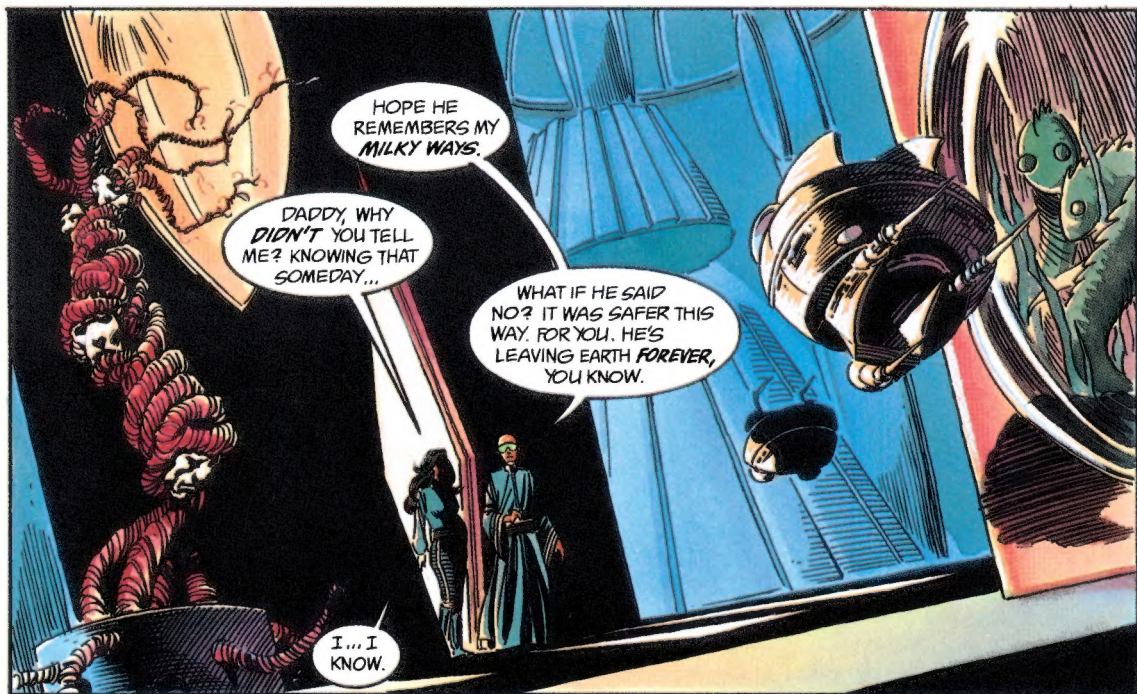
YOUR ACCIDENTAL INTERCEPTION OF THE BEAM YEARS AGO AND ITS UNPLANNED ABILITY TO TRANSPORT YOU HERE WAS... A FORTUITOUS EVENT FOR ALL.



I'D SAY. MY LIFE HERE HAS BEEN SO... WONDERFUL AND... AH, UNUSUAL. KNOWING YOU AND ALANNA, HELPING RANN...

PRECISELY. OBVIOUSLY YOUR CONTINUED EXISTENCE HERE WAS DESIRABLE, SO I WORKED TO OVERRIDE THE BEAM'S TEMPORARY NATURE YEARS AGO.







WHY'D I
COME HERE?



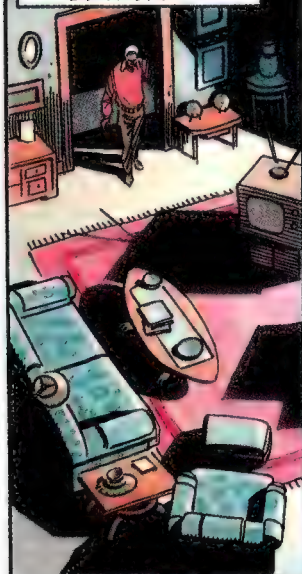
DON'T KNOW IF I'D CALL MY
CHILDHOOD HAPPY--

--BUT IT WAS
THE ONLY ONE
I HAD...

NEVER WANTED
TO COME BACK
AFTER MA DIED.



FIGURES. JANEY HASN'T
MOVED A THING SINCE...
HARD TO IMAGINE HER
AND DAD ALONE HERE
EVERY DAY...



NEVER WAS MUCH OF A
FAMILY. WHEN DAD GOES,
JUST BE JANEY AN' ME...

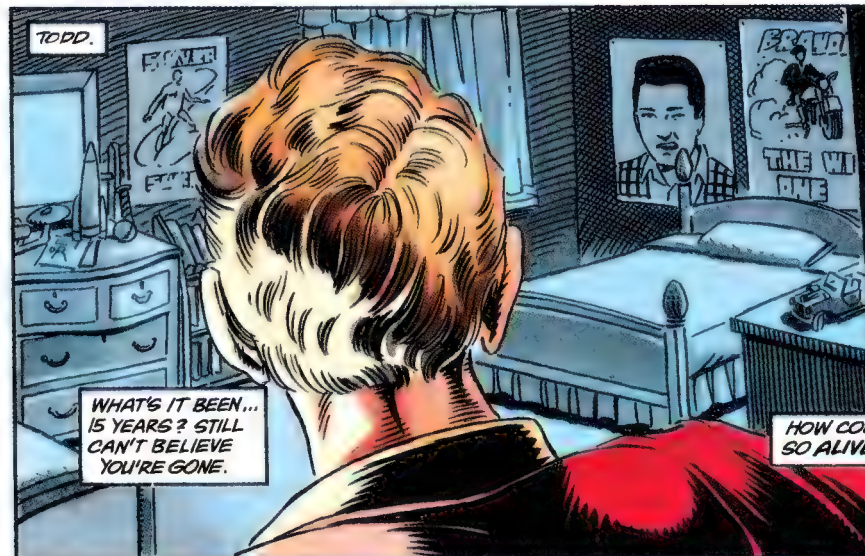


GOD, I HATED BEING THE
RUNT. WHY'D ANYONE
WANT TO HAVE A KID
WHEN THEY WERE THAT
OLD?

I KNOW THEY MOVED
HERE FROM CHICAGO
FOR DAD'S HEALTH, BUT
I WAS ONLY ONE WHEN
WE LEFT THERE. THIS
WAS A LOUSY PLACE
TO GROW UP...



...AND IT SURE
AS HELL DROVE
TODD AWAY...



TODD.

WHAT'S IT BEEN...
15 YEARS? STILL
CAN'T BELIEVE
YOU'RE GONE.

HOW COULD ANYONE
SO ALIVE EVER DIE?



GO BOY!
GET 'IM!
HUSTLE!!

⇒AHUH⇒
YEA!
⇒pant⇒



YEAH
ADAM!!



I GOT...
WHOA!!



LOOK, TODDO!
I GOT 'IM!! PRETTY
GOOD, HUH?

NOT TOO
SHABBY SHORTY.
YA DID O.K.



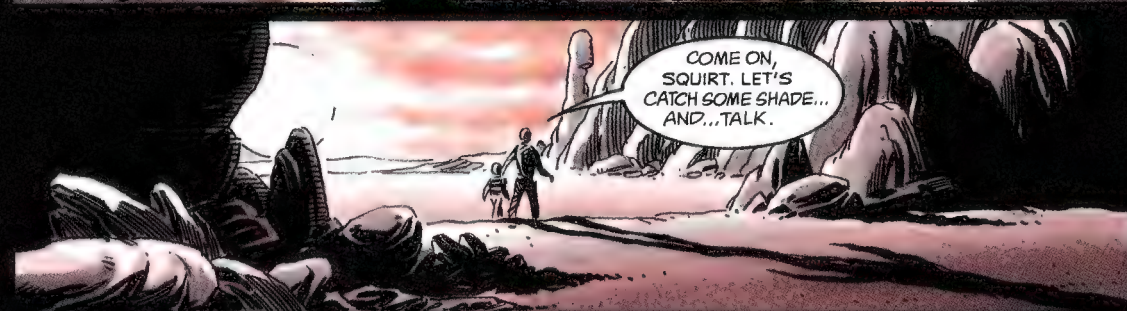
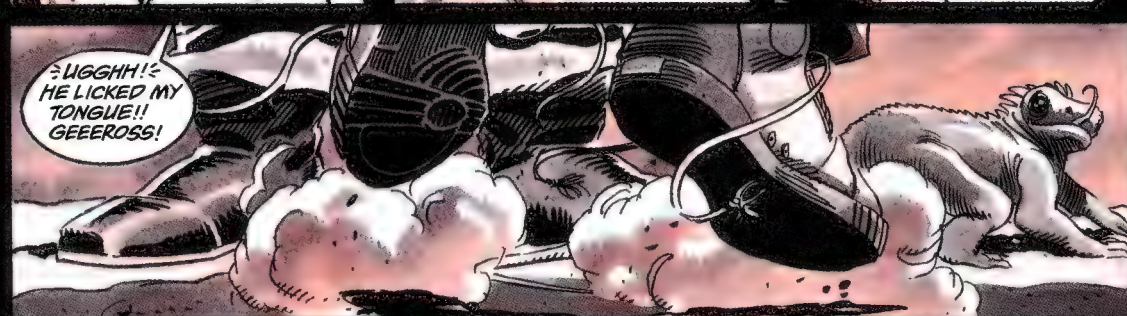
NOW FOR YOUR NEXT TEST,
I WANT YA TO PUT **HIS**
HEAD IN YER MOUTH.

JEEZ
TODDO, XTS
GROSS...



WHAT'S THIS?!
AFRAID OF THE
LITTLE LIZZIE?

YOU COULD
BITE HIS HEAD
OFF IN ONE GOOD
CHOMP!





HEY, TODDO! THIS LOOKS LIKE REAL *INJUN* STUFF! AN ARROWHEAD OR SOMETHIN'... WILD!

'JA EVER WONDER 'BOUT ALL THE CRAP PEOPLE LEAVE BEHIND? LIKE WHEN THEY DIE AN' STUFF...

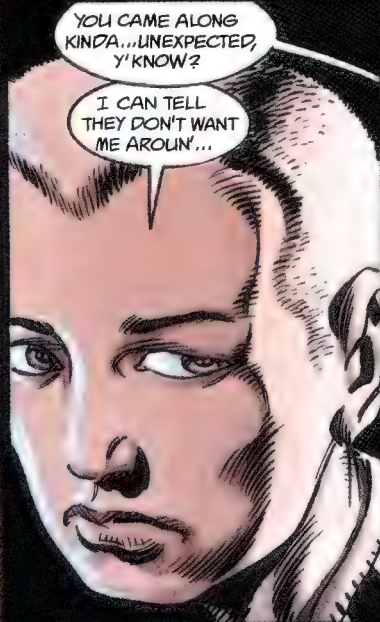


WATCH'ER MOUTH, *WILLYA?* MA AN' DAD ALREADY THINK I'M A BAD INFLUENCE ON YA.



YEAH, WELL, THEY'RE TOO OLD TO KNOW WHAT'S COOL, LIKE YOU.

THEY AIN'T SO BAD, ADAM. AIN'T THEIR FAULT THEY'RE OLD.



YOU CAME ALONG KINDA... UNEXPECTED, Y' KNOW?

I CAN TELL THEY DON'T WANT ME AROUND'...



ANYWAY, I BET A WHOLE *TRIBE* LIVED HERE!

Y'KNOW, IT'S NOT EASY FOR THEM TO HAVE A LITTLE PUNK LIKE YOU. S'GOOD THING JANEY'S AROUND TA WIPE YER NOSE.

CRA... I MEAN, SHE'S A DRAG, TOO. JUST WHAT A GUY NEEDS-- *TWO MOMS!*



HEY! SHE'S YER SISTER, SO YOU LISTEN TO HER.

YEAH... SURE, TODD...

MAN, IF YOU REALLY STUDIED THIS STUFF, I BET YOU'D KNOW WHAT THEY ATE AN' BUILT AN' EVERYTHING!

STOP PLAYING GOPHER, WILL YA?! YA SOUND LIKE A GODDAMN ARCHAEOLOGY TEACHER.

WHAT'S ARCHENO-LAGY?

FORGET IT. WE GOTTA TALK.

WHAT'S UP? A SECRET MISSION FOR US?

LISTEN, PAL... I GOT SOME THINGS TO DO... I MIGHT BE GONE AWHILE...

WHATYA MEAN?

I MEAN... I CAN'T STAY HERE ANY-MORE... I...

WHATYA MEAN? HERE? IN THE CAVE?

STOP SAYING "WHATYA MEAN?"!! I MEAN I'M MOVING AWAY FROM HERE!

AWAY FROM THIS CAVE, THAT HOUSE, THIS FREAKIN' DESERT!!! OKAY?!

YOU? GO AWAY? WHAT?

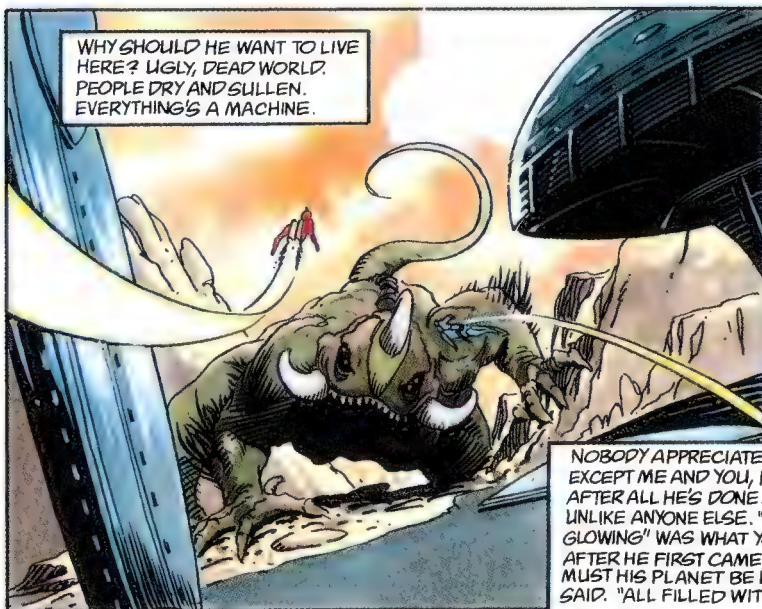
BUT YOU LIVE HERE. WITH ME AN' JANEEY AN' MOM... AN'...

I GOTTA GO AN' DO STUFF, KID. I'M DYING HERE. THERE'S NOTHIN' FOR ME HERE... 'CEPT YOU.

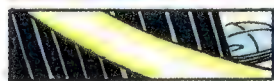
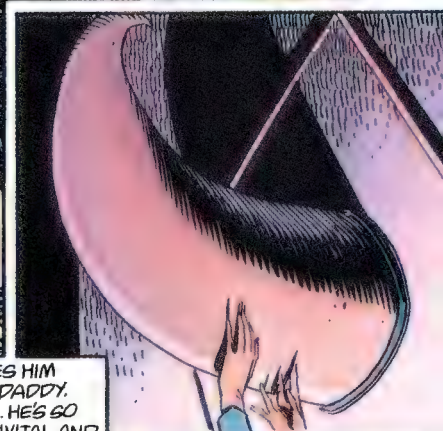
"I GOTTA FIND WHAT'S OUT THERE FOR ME."

"I'M SORRY, ADAM. REALLY. DON'T WORRY. WE'LL ALWAYS BE PALS."

WHY SHOULD HE WANT TO LIVE
HERE? UGLY, DEAD WORLD.
PEOPLE DRY AND SULLEN.
EVERYTHING'S A MACHINE.



NOBODY APPRECIATES HIM
EXCEPT ME AND YOU, DADDY.
AFTER ALL HE'S DONE. HE'S SO
UNLIKE ANYONE ELSE. "VITAL AND
GLOWING" WAS WHAT YOU SAID
AFTER HE FIRST CAME. "WHAT
MUST HIS PLANET BE LIKE! YOU
SAID. "ALL FILLED WITH LIFE."



BUT... HE NEVER TALKS ABOUT IT. OH,
HE ANSWERS ALL YOUR QUESTIONS,
BUT HE NEVER SAYS WHAT HIS LIFE IS
LIKE THERE. WHEN I ASK HE JUST TELLS
ME "IT'S NO FUN."

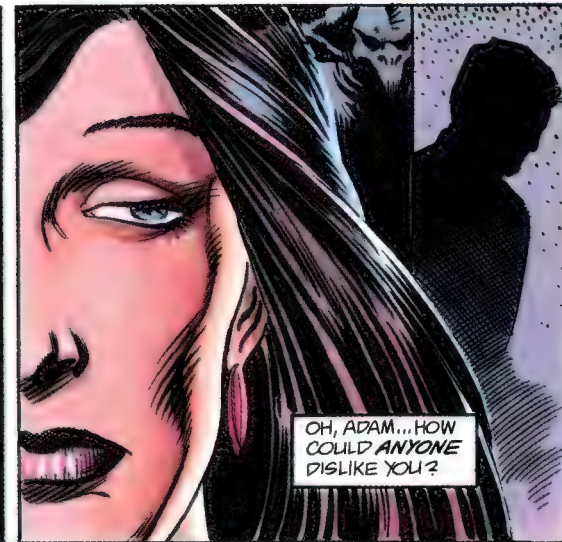
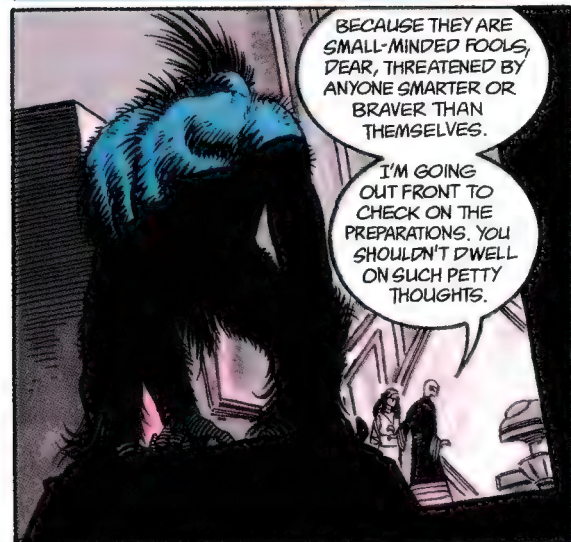
BUT HOW COULD ANY PLACE THAT
MADE HIM BE *BAD*? EVEN IF THEY
AREN'T AS ADVANCED AS WE ARE,
THEY'RE LEARNING AND GROWING.
WE'RE ALL JUST WAITING TO DIE.

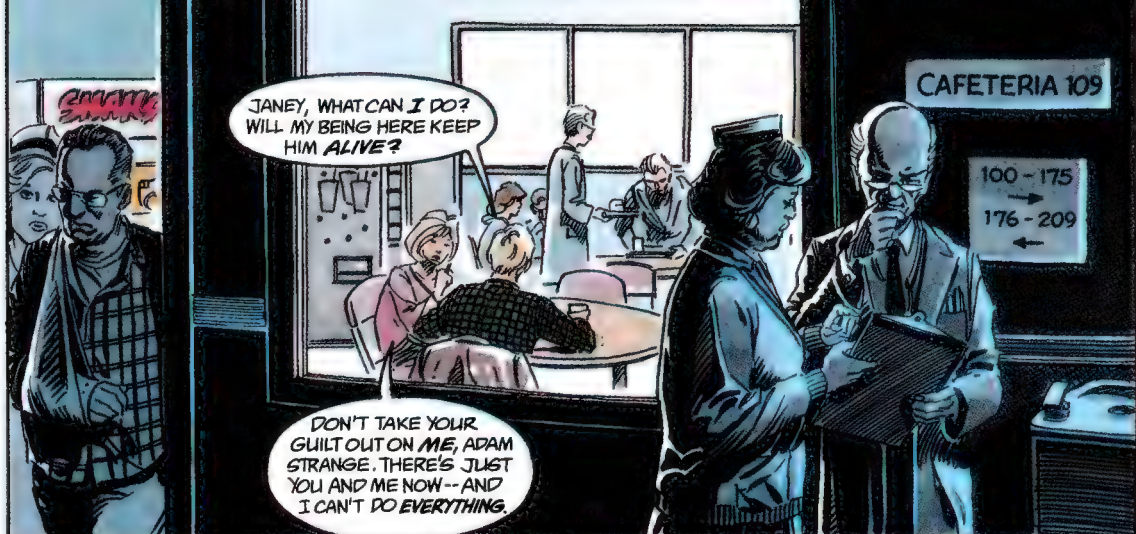


NO ONE CARES OR DOES
ANYTHING. OF COURSE,
THERE IS NOTHING MUCH
TO DO, WITH THE MACHINES
AND ALL BUT...

I WISH HE
WAS BACK.







JANEY, WHAT CAN I DO?
WILL MY BEING HERE KEEP
HIM ALIVE?

DON'T TAKE YOUR
GUILT OUT ON ME, ADAM
STRANGE. THERE'S JUST
YOU AND ME NOW--AND
I CAN'T DO EVERYTHING.



SURE. YOU FLY AROUND THE
WORLD. MISTER WORLD-FAMOUS
ARCHAEOLOGIST. GOOD
FOR YOU.

BUT I'M
STUCK HERE
TAKING CARE OF
OUR FATHER!



I KNOW YOU'VE HAD IT ROUGH,
SIS. I APPRECIATE YOUR
CARING FOR HIM. IT'S JUST...
MY WORK TAKES ME FAR
AWAY. AND I RARELY KNOW
FOR HOW LONG.

NO KIDDING!
AFTER FATHER'S
LAST ATTACK, I
WENT CRAZY
TRYING TO LOCATE
YOU.

IT WAS LIKE
YOU'D VANISHED
OFF THE FACE OF
THE EARTH. COULDN'T
YOU LEAVE A
NUMBER?



JANEY, WHERE I
GO, MA BELL DON'T
FOLLOW.

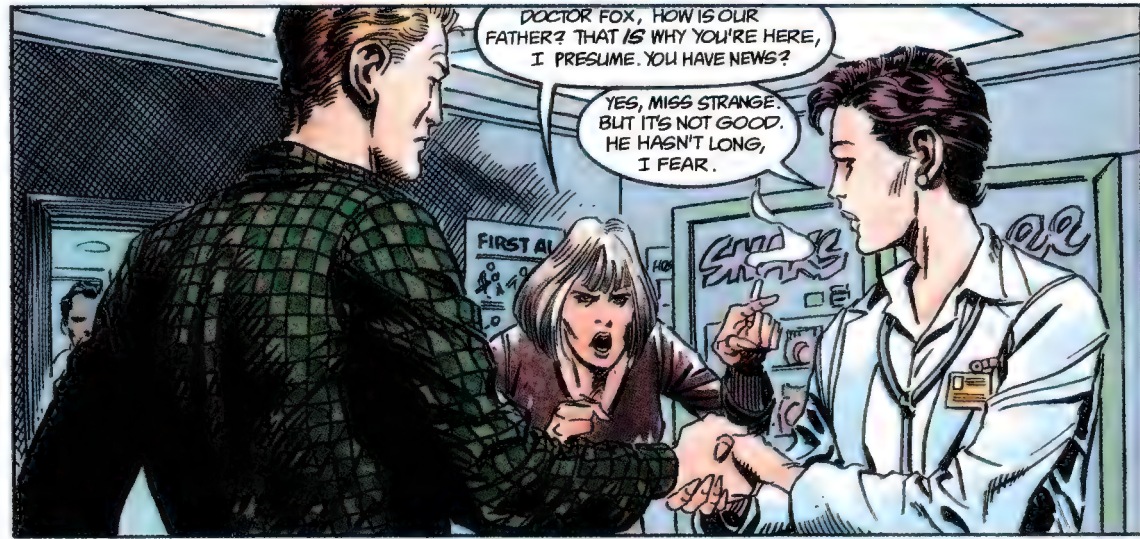


ADAM?

EVELYN!

GOOD TO SEE
YOU AGAIN. IT'S
BEEN SOME TIME
SINCE YOU WERE
LAST HERE. BUT
IT'S A PLEASURE,
AS ALWAYS.

UH,
YEAH.



DOCTOR FOX, HOW IS OUR
FATHER? THAT IS WHY YOU'RE HERE,
I PRESUME. YOU HAVE NEWS?

YES, MISS STRANGE.
BUT IT'S NOT GOOD.
HE HASN'T LONG,
I FEAR.



HE'S VERY WEAK, SO PLEASE DON'T EXCITE

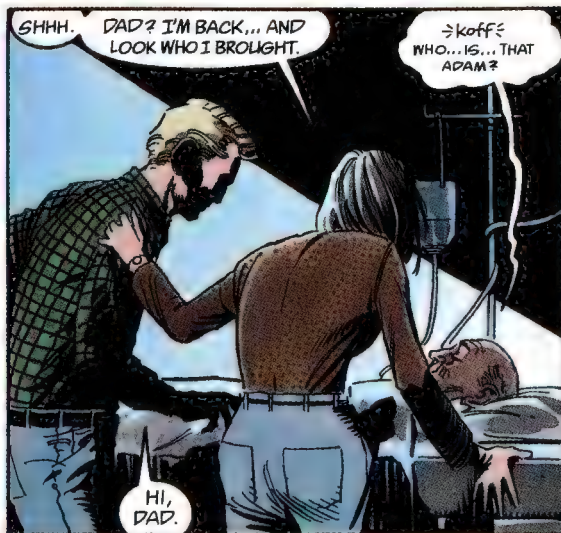
DON'T WORRY, DOCTOR. I WON'T.



JANEY, I'D LIKE TO BE ALONE WITH HIM FOR A LITTLE...

NO, ADAM. I'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO BE WITH HIM IN HIS LAST MOMENTS.

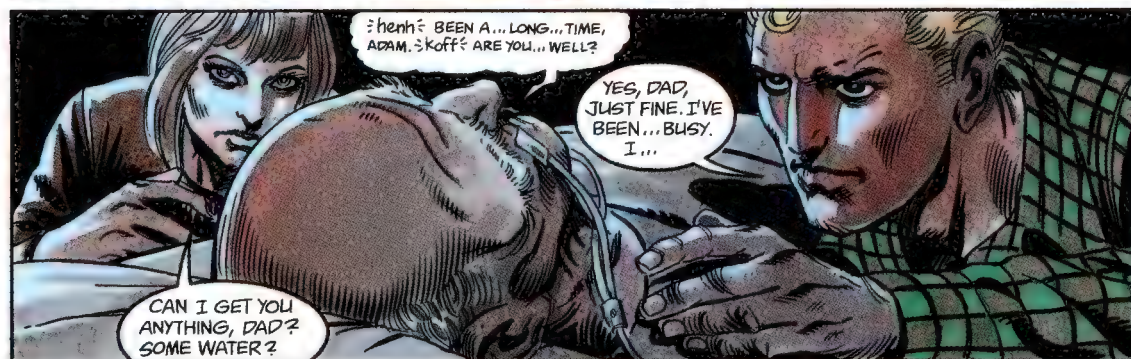
BUT...



SHHH. DAD? I'M BACK... AND LOOK WHO I BROUGHT.

¿koff¿ WHO... IS... THAT ADAM?

HI, DAD.



¿henh¿ BEEN A... LONG... TIME, ADAM. ¿koff¿ ARE YOU... WELL?

YES, DAD, JUST FINE. I'VE BEEN... BUSY. I...

CAN I GET YOU ANYTHING, DAD? SOME WATER?



...NO, ADAM, WHERE... HAVE YOU BEEN? ¿henh¿ HAVE YOU FOUND A... GIRL YET?

NO. I MEAN... YES. I...

ADAM! YOU NEVER TOLD ME! WHERE'S SHE FROM? WHAT'S HER NAME?



OH GOD. HOW CAN I TELL YOU? MY LIFE HAS BEEN SO... SO...

WHAT'S THE BIG SECRET, ADAM? WE'RE FAMILY.



ALL RIGHT. I'LL TELL YOU MY BIG SECRET. IT'S TIME YOU KNEW...

THERE'S THIS WONDERFUL WORLD, VERY FAR AWAY...



CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS? HIS OWN MUSEUM? NEXT THEY'LL PUT HIM ON THE HIGH COUNCIL.

WHY NOT? CLONES OR ALIENS... WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD IT MAKE?



WELL... HE HAS HELPED US OUT A FEW TIMES...

SO? GIVE ME A ROCKETPACK AND A GUN! I'LL DEFEND US JUST AS WELL.



THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT. IT'S THE **SYSTEM** THAT'S NOT WORKING HERE. THE COUNCIL'S HALF-ASLEEP AND GARDATH STILL RUNS **EVERYTHING**!



YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S IMPORTANT? WE'RE ALLOWING **HALF-BREEDS**!

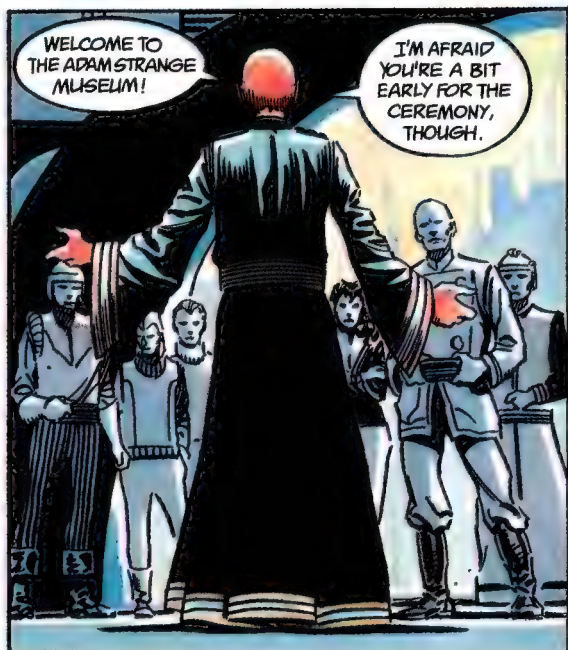
YEAH! WHY'S THE FIRST NEW-BORN IN 20 CYCLES HAVE TO BE AN **ALIEN**?!



WELL, JUST BECAUSE MOST OF US CAN'T HAVE CHILDREN, I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD...

OH, YOU JUST DON'T **THINK**! IT'S DISGUSTING THE WAY **GARDATH** GAVE HER AWAY LIKE A **PRIZE**!

SSSH! HE'S COMING!



WELCOME TO
THE ADAM STRANGE
MUSEUM!

I'M AFRAID
YOU'RE A BIT
EARLY FOR THE
CEREMONY,
THOUGH.



WELL, ACTUALLY, SOME
OF US WERE WONDERING
IF THERE WAS ANYTHING
TO DO HERE...SOME
WORK OR ANYTHING
USEFUL?

WORK?? NO. THE
MACHINES HANDLE MOST
THINGS, OF COURSE.

A FEW LABORERS
WERE NEEDED. THE MACHINES
WEREN'T PROGRAMMED FOR A
SPECIAL EVENT LIKE THIS.



WHAT SPECIAL EVENT? YOUR
"PROCLAMATION OF FIRST CITIZEN"
TO HONOR STRANGE FOR
ALL HE'S DONE?!



TO YOUR
DAUGHTER,
THAT IS!

WHAT??!

IT'S DISGUSTING,
SARDATH. YOU OFFERED
HER TO HIM LIKE YOU'RE
OFFERING HIM THE
CITY!



MARLEAH.
EASY...

YOU FOOLS!
YOU HAVE NO
RIGHT TO TALK
THIS WAY!

WHY IS IT YOU
WHO DECIDES OUR
RIGHTS?! WE THOUGHT
THE HIGH COUNCIL
YOU BUILT WAS
IN CHARGE!





DON'T CROWD
THE MAN.

HEY! WE
WEREN'T DOING
ANYTHING!



ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT, SIR?

DELAKEN. I...
GUESS SO. THEY
WERE JUST--

TELLING YOU THEIR
PROBLEMS, RIGHT? O.K.
EVERYBODY, FIND SOME-
THING USEFUL TO
DO.



HA HA.
VERY
FUNNY.

LISTEN, ARE YOU
SERIOUS... ABOUT
WHAT YOU
SAID?

HEY, ARE YOU GUYS
CONNECTED
WITH--?



SSH! NOT
HERE. WILL
YOU COME
WITH US?

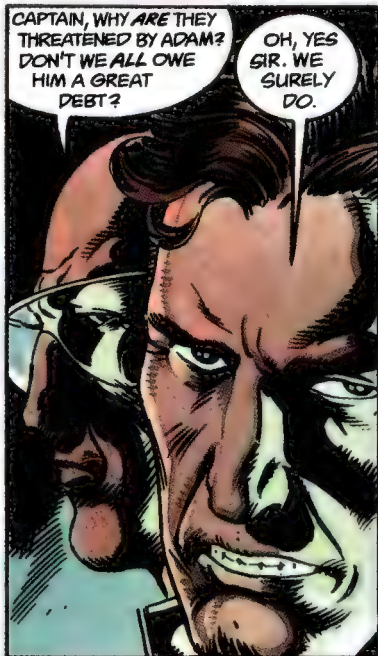
I'VE GOT
CONTACTS
IN HIGH PLACES,
YOU KNOW.

REALLY?
WELL, WE
HAVE A
LOT TO TALK
ABOUT...



LET'S GO, SIR.
PEOPLE GET
NASTY WHEN
THEY SEE THERE'S
WORK, BUT NONE
FOR THEM.

WELL, WHY
SHOULD THERE BE?
FOR ALIMAR'S SAKE,
THAT'S WHAT THE
MACHINES ARE
FOR.



CAPTAIN, WHY ARE THEY
THREATENED BY ADAM?
DON'T WE ALL OWE
HIM A GREAT
DEBT?

OH, YES
SIR. WE
SURELY
DO.



THINGS GO
O.K. WITH YOUR
FAMILY?

THEY
COULDN'T
BELIEVE
ME.

PARDON ME?

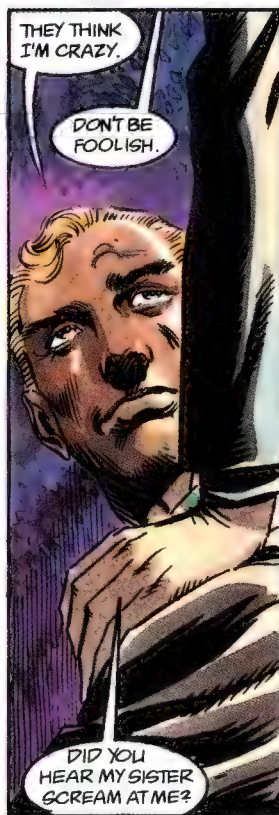
DOCTOR...
IS HE GOING
TO DIE?



YOU KNOW HE'S
BEEN TERMINAL FOR
A WHILE.

THAT'S
NOT WHAT'S
BOTHERING
YOU NOW.

IS IT?



THEY THINK
I'M CRAZY.

DON'T BE
FOOLISH.

DID YOU
HEAR MY SISTER
SCREAM AT ME?



FROM
THE NEXT
WING.

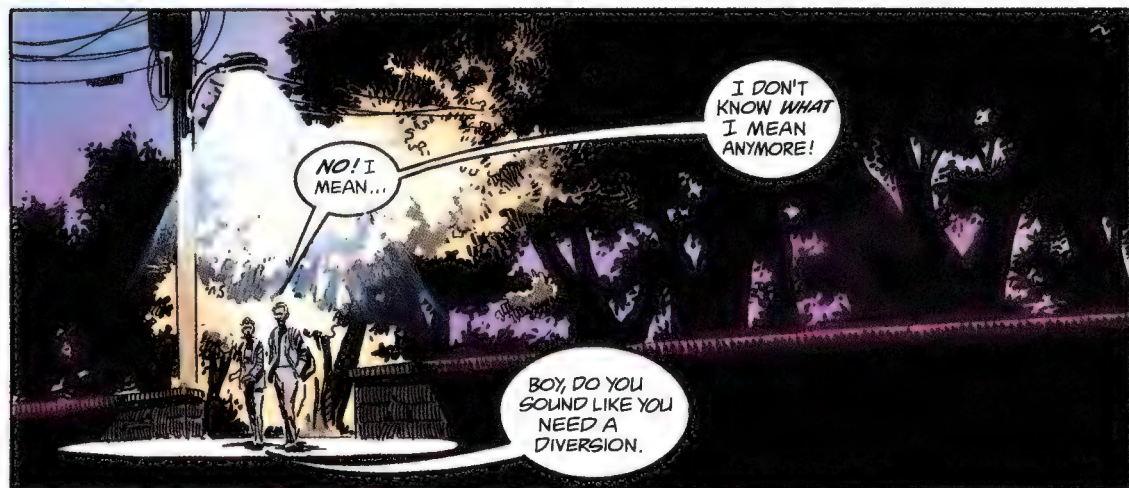
WHAT
CAUSED
IT?

I TOLD
THEM THE
TRUTH.



UH OH.
THAT SOUNDS
DANGEROUS.

I'M OFF
FOR THE NIGHT.
YOU WANT TO TELL
ME THE TRUTH
TOO?



NO! I
MEAN...

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
I MEAN
ANYMORE!

BOY, DO YOU
SOUND LIKE YOU
NEED A
DIVERSION.



'SCUSE ME...
PARDON ME...

HEY,
WATCH
IT!

WHATS'YER
PROBLEM?!



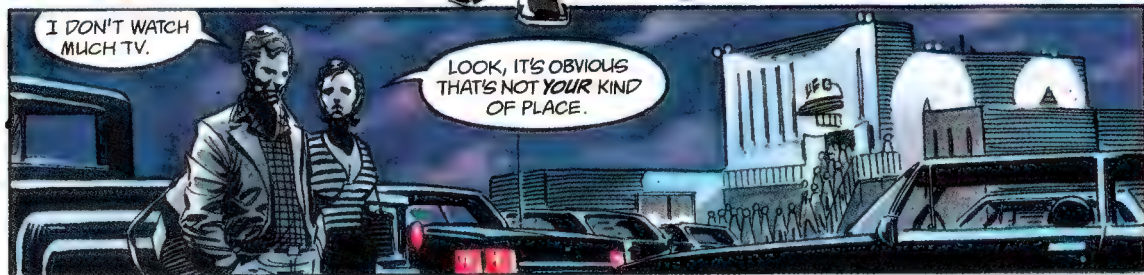
LOOK, I'M SORRY
ABOUT THAT.

'S OKAY.



IT'S NOT EVERY DAY PEOPLE
LAUGH... AND CALL ME AN
ALIEN. NICE FRIENDS YOU
HAVE.

WELL, SUZY
JUST COULDN'T
BELIEVE YOU'D
NEVER HEARD OF
MADONNA...



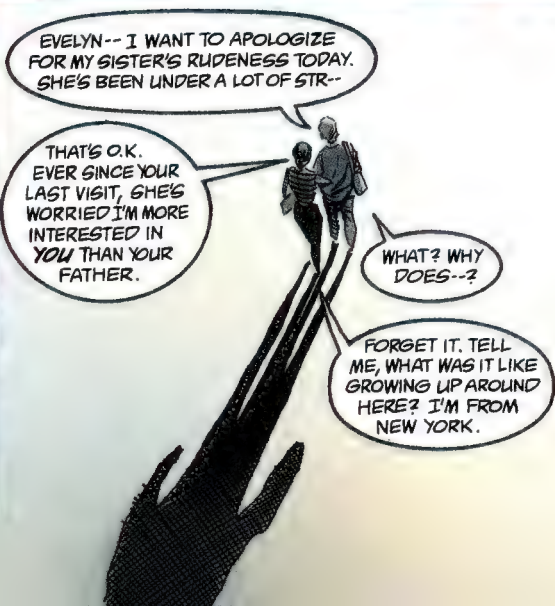
I DON'T WATCH
MUCH TV.

LOOK, IT'S OBVIOUS
THAT'S NOT YOUR KIND
OF PLACE.



I TRAVEL
A LOT.

IT'S O.K. LET'S
GET SOME WINE AND
GO FOR A NICE, QUIET
WALK. HMM?



EVELYN-- I WANT TO APOLOGIZE
FOR MY SISTER'S RUDENESS TODAY.
SHE'S BEEN UNDER A LOT OF STR--

THAT'S O.K.
EVER SINCE YOUR
LAST VISIT, SHE'S
WORRIED I'M MORE
INTERESTED IN
YOU THAN YOUR
FATHER.

WHAT? WHY
DOES--?

FORGET IT. TELL
ME, WHAT WAS IT LIKE
GROWING UP AROUND
HERE? I'M FROM
NEW YORK.

"...ANYWAY, MOM DIED WHEN I WAS PRETTY YOUNG, AND DAD WAS SICK ALL THE TIME. JANEY TOOK GOOD CARE OF ME, BUT WE WERE NEVER REALLY CLOSE. I WAS SO MUCH YOUNGER THAN HER, AND LIVING OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, I PLAYED BY MYSELF A LOT. I GUESS THINGS REALLY WENT DOWNHILL AFTER TODD LEFT. WASN'T LONG BEFORE I WANTED OUT, TOO. I KNEW I WAS RUNNING OUT ON DAD, BUT I WAS AFRAID I'D DIE, TOO. IF I STAYED, SOUNDS SILLY TO SAY NOW, BUT WHEN YOU'RE SIXTEEN...

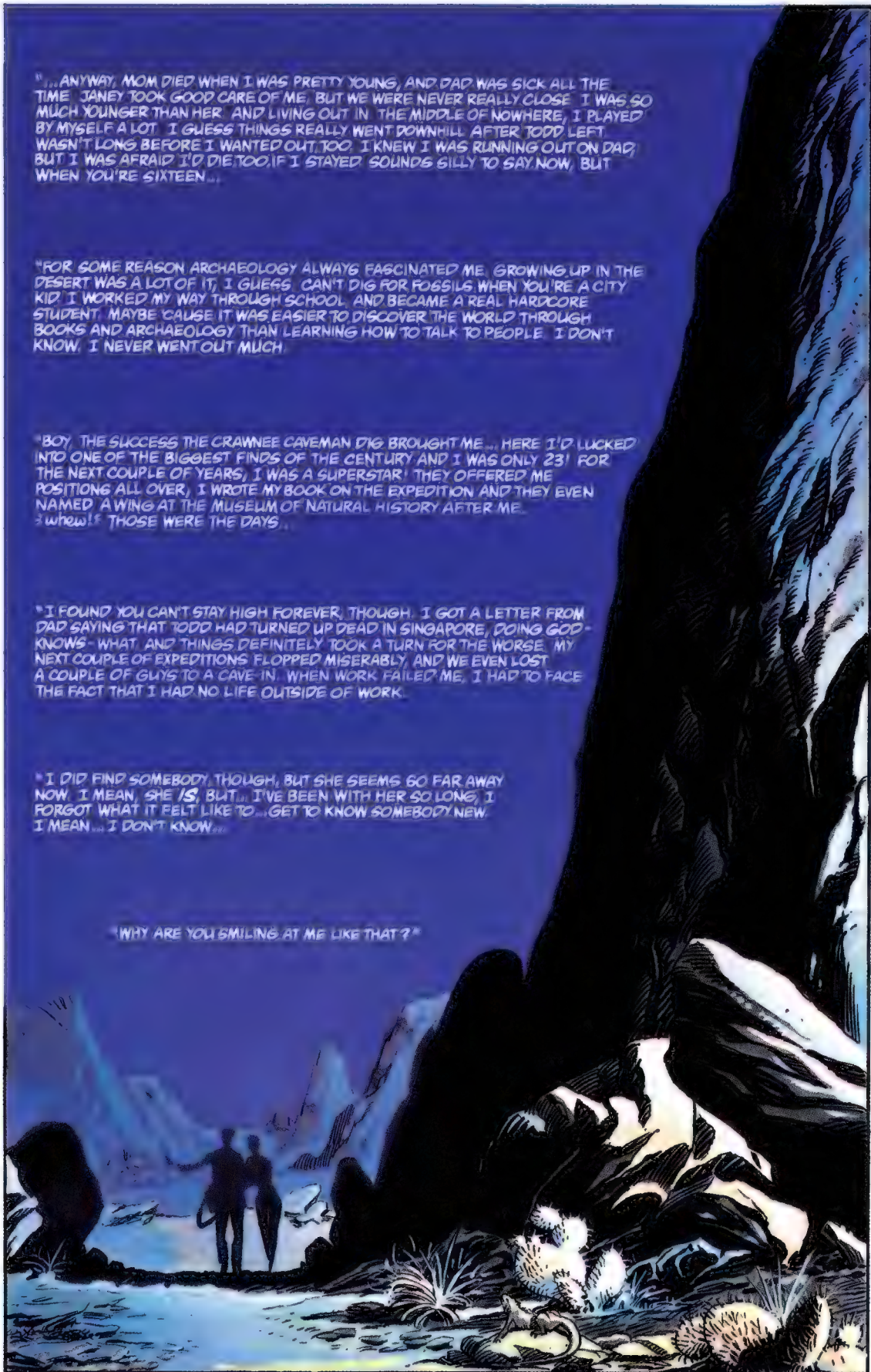
"FOR SOME REASON, ARCHAEOLOGY ALWAYS FASCINATED ME. GROWING UP IN THE DESERT WAS A LOT OF IT, I GUESS. CAN'T DIG FOR FOSSILS WHEN YOU'RE A CITY KID. I WORKED MY WAY THROUGH SCHOOL, AND BECAME A REAL HARDCORE STUDENT. MAYBE 'CAUSE IT WAS EASIER TO DISCOVER THE WORLD THROUGH BOOKS AND ARCHAEOLOGY THAN LEARNING HOW TO TALK TO PEOPLE. I DON'T KNOW. I NEVER WENT OUT MUCH.

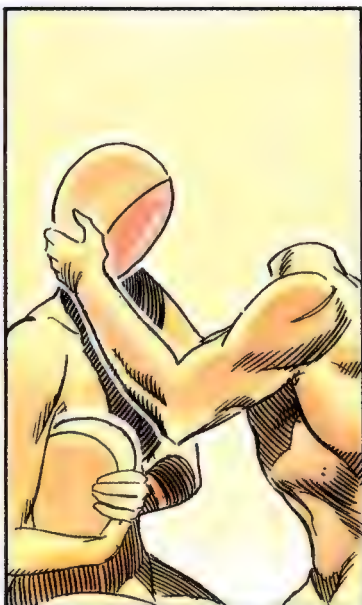
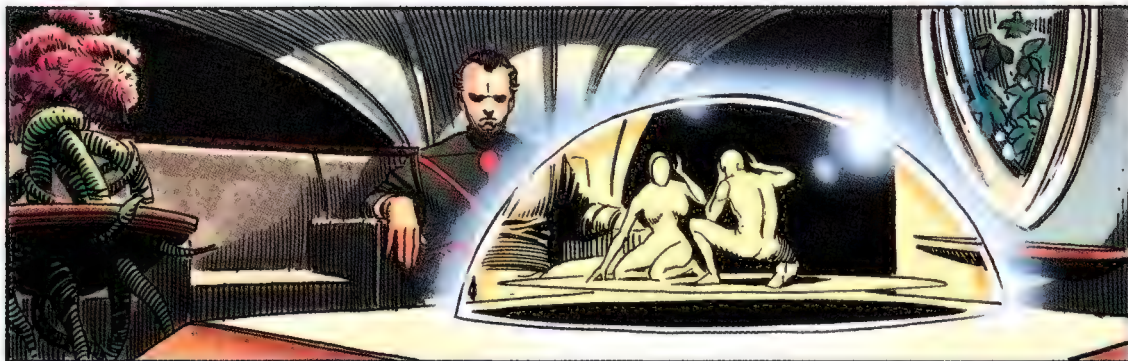
"BOY, THE SUCCESS THE CRAWNEE CAVEMAN DIG BROUGHT ME... HERE I'D LUCKED INTO ONE OF THE BIGGEST FINDS OF THE CENTURY AND I WAS ONLY 23! FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS, I WAS A SUPERSTAR! THEY OFFERED ME POSITIONS ALL OVER, I WROTE MY BOOK ON THE EXPEDITION AND THEY EVEN NAMED A WING AT THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AFTER ME.
3 whew!\$ THOSE WERE THE DAYS.

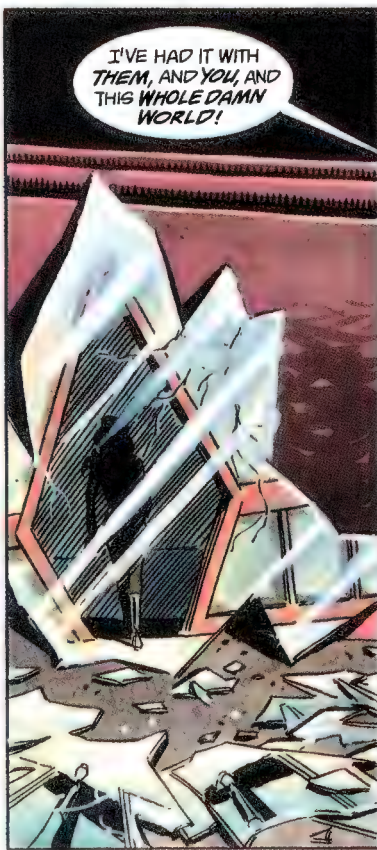
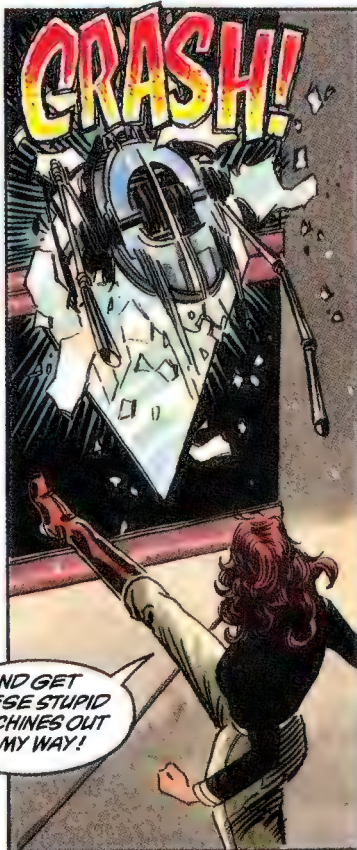
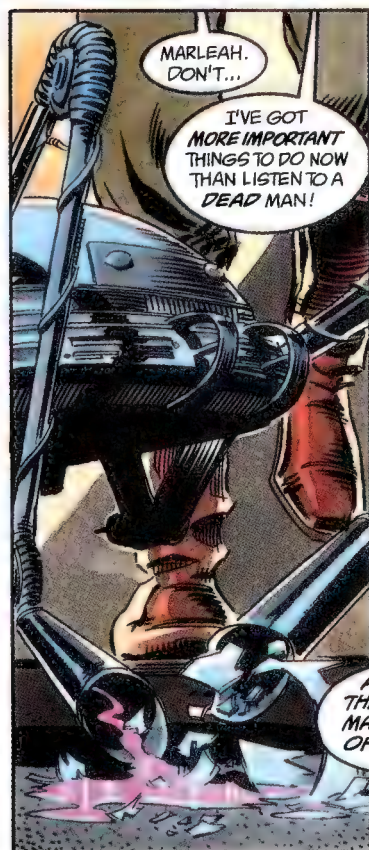
"I FOUND YOU CAN'T STAY HIGH FOREVER, THOUGH. I GOT A LETTER FROM DAD SAYING THAT TODD HAD TURNED UP DEAD IN SINGAPORE, DOING GOD-KNOWS - WHAT. AND THINGS DEFINITELY TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE. MY NEXT COUPLE OF EXPEDITIONS FLOPPED MISERABLY, AND WE EVEN LOST A COUPLE OF GUYS TO A CAVE-IN. WHEN WORK FAILED ME, I HAD TO FACE THE FACT THAT I HAD NO LIFE OUTSIDE OF WORK.

"I DID FIND SOMEBODY, THOUGH, BUT SHE SEEMS SO FAR AWAY NOW. I MEAN, SHE *IS*, BUT... I'VE BEEN WITH HER SO LONG, I FORGOT WHAT IT FELT LIKE TO... GET TO KNOW SOMEBODY NEW. I MEAN... I DON'T KNOW...

"WHY ARE YOU SMILING AT ME LIKE THAT?"









WOAH! GUESS
I STILL CAN GE'
DRUNK!

EASY, ADAM.
IT'S FIVE
O'CLOCK.

YEA!
I'LL BE
EASY!

HEY...YER NOT
GONNA TRY TA TAKE
A'VANTAGE O' ME,
ARE YA, EVEY?

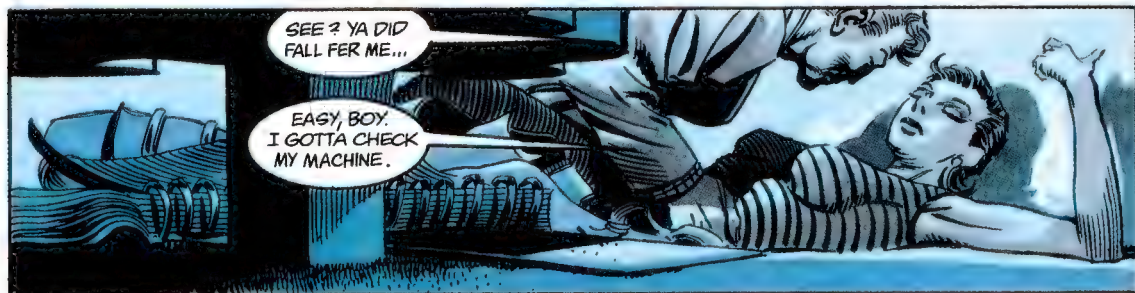


WHY? YOU
THINK I'M
FALLING FOR
YOU?



WHY NOT?
I'M PRETTY GOO--
WHOA!!!

ADAM!



SEE ? YA DID
FALL FER ME...

EASY, BOY.
I GOTTA CHECK
MY MACHINE.



WASSA MATTER? NEV'R BEEN
'TTACKED BY A 'NALIEN MONSTER
B'FORE?

SSSH!

≡CLICK≡
DR. FOX ...



THIS IS RUTH ON
SIX.

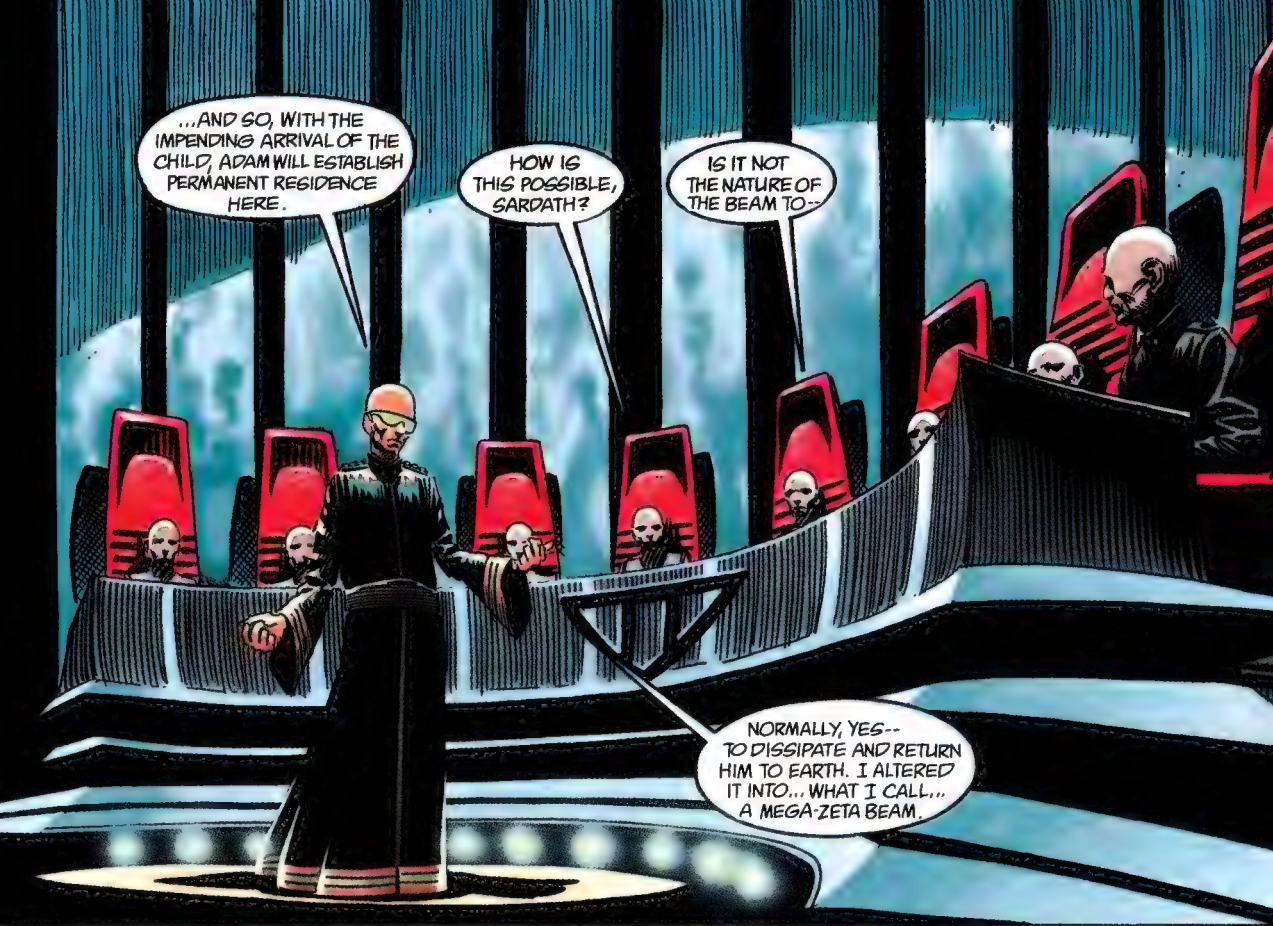


MR. STRANGE
IN 22 EXPIRED
AT 3:45.

YOU'D BETTER
NOTIFY HIS FAMILY.
THANKS. ≡beep≡



OH, ADAM...

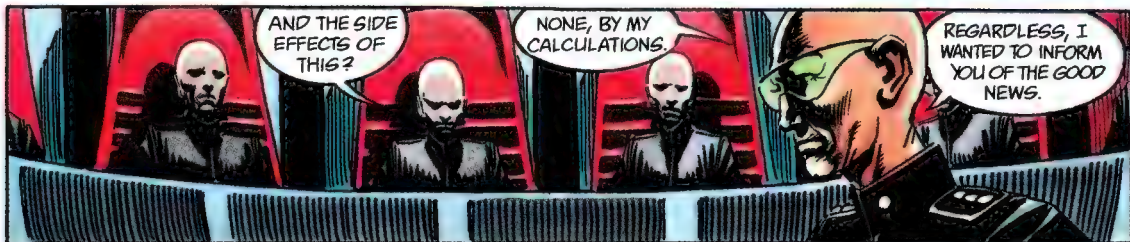


...AND SO, WITH THE IMPENDING ARRIVAL OF THE CHILD, ADAM WILL ESTABLISH PERMANENT RESIDENCE HERE.

HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE, SARDATH?

IS IT NOT THE NATURE OF THE BEAM TO--

NORMALLY, YES-- TO DISSIPATE AND RETURN HIM TO EARTH. I ALTERED IT INTO... WHAT I CALL... A MEGA-ZETA BEAM.



AND THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THIS?

NONE, BY MY CALCULATIONS.

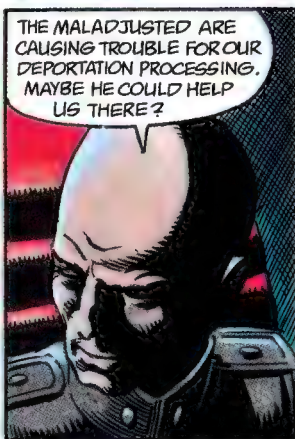
REGARDLESS, I WANTED TO INFORM YOU OF THE GOOD NEWS.



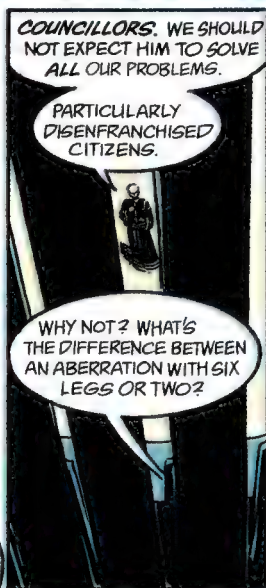
WELL, CERTAINLY. HE'S A MOST ADVENTUROUS AND RESOURCEFUL CREATURE. WE'RE DELIGHTED TO HAVE HIS CONTINUED PROTECTION.



YES, PARTICULARLY GIVEN RECENT INCREASED DEVIANT BEHAVIOR FROM THE POPULACE.



THE MALADJUSTED ARE CAUSING TROUBLE FOR OUR DEPORTATION PROCESSING. MAYBE HE COULD HELP US THERE?



COUNCILLORS. WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT HIM TO SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS.

PARTICULARLY DISENFRANCHISED CITIZENS.

WHY NOT? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ABERRATION WITH SIX LEGS OR TWO?



YOU MUST UNDERSTAND. ADAM WISHES TO "RETIRE" FROM HEROICS TO DEVOTE HIMSELF TO HIS FAMILY.



WHAT? THAT'S
ABSURD.

I MUST
SAY.

WHAT
DOES THIS MEAN,
SARDATH?



IT MEANS, HE'S
TO BE A *FATHER*... WITH
RESPONSIBILITIES YOU
CAN'T *CONCEIVE*
OF...



WELL, THIS
WILL NOT
DO!

YOU CONVINCED
US WE NEEDED
THIS ELABORATE
MUSEUM...

AND THE
FIRST CITIZEN
PROCLAMATION...

NOW HE'S
OF *NO USE* TO
US ANYMORE?

JUST GO HE
CAN *MATE*?!

A PARASITE
ON THE CITY-
STATE...



ENOUGH! YOU...
CREATURES... HAVE
NO RIGHT TO SPEAK
THIS!

HE HAS
RISKED HIS *LIFE*
COUNTLESS TIMES FOR
RANN AND YOU HAVE
THE *AUDACITY* TO
QUESTION HIS
DESIRES?!



MASTER, WE DID
NOT MEAN TO
OFFEND...

WE JUST
WANTED...

WHAT YOU
WANT IS OF *NO*
IMPORTANCE.

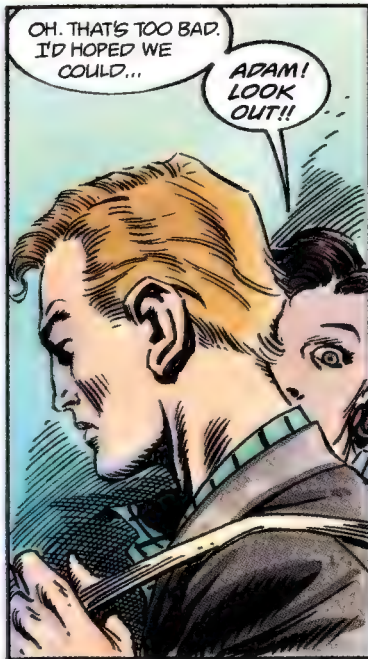
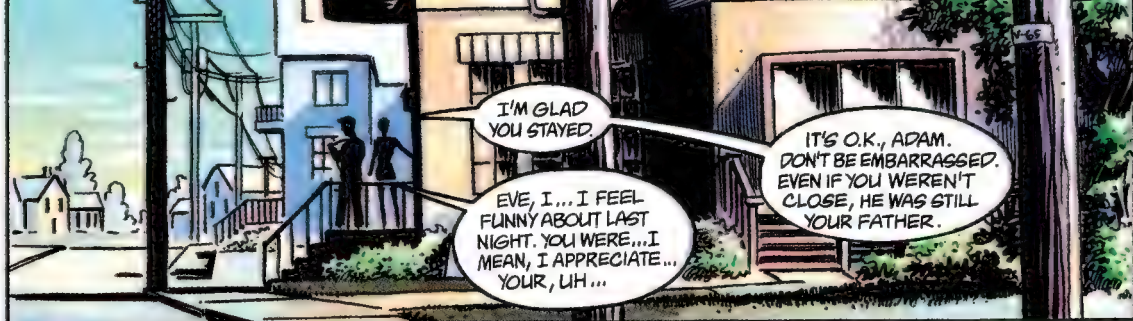
I MADE
YOU AND YOU'LL
DO AS I SEE
FIT! OR I
WILL ...



BAH.

I ALONE
KNOW
JUST HOW
VALUELESS
YOUR
OPINIONS
ARE.





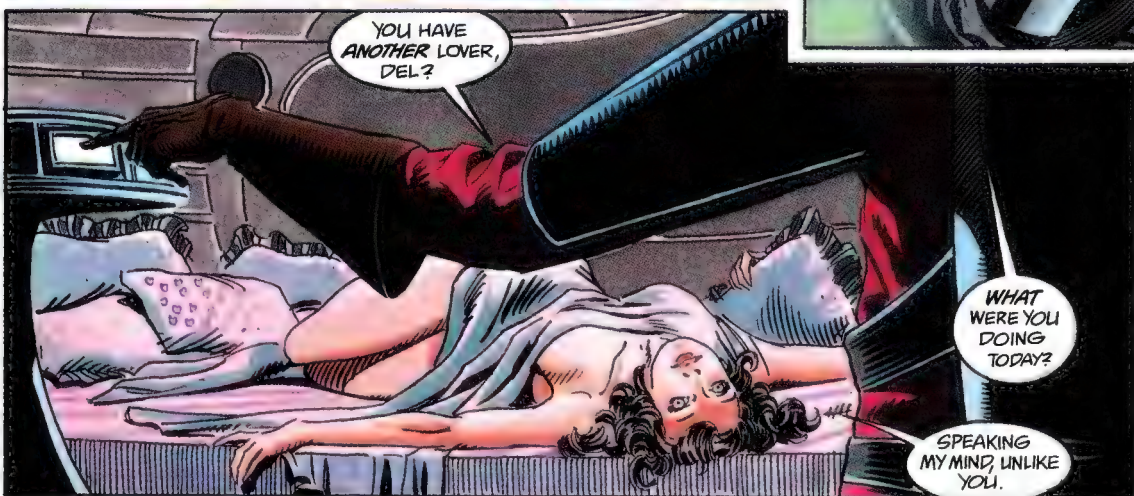


THEY'RE SCARED FOR A CHANGE. *GOOD*. WITH STRANGE OUT I'LL BE ON TOP AGAIN...

YEAH, BUT HE'LL STILL BE WITH HER ALL THE TIME, DAMN HIM...



MARLEAH?



YOU HAVE ANOTHER LOVER, DEL?

WHAT WERE YOU DOING TODAY?

SPEAKING MY MIND, UNLIKE YOU.



YOU ACTED LIKE YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ME!

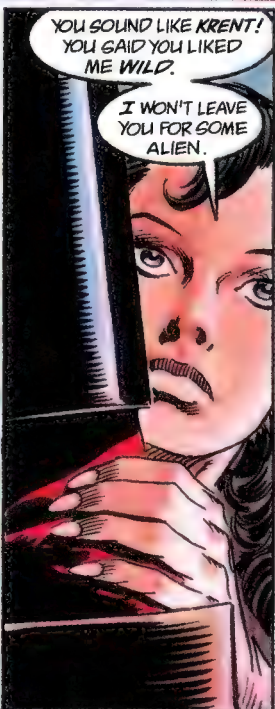
THINK OF MY POSITION, MAR.



AS WHAT? COUNCIL PET?

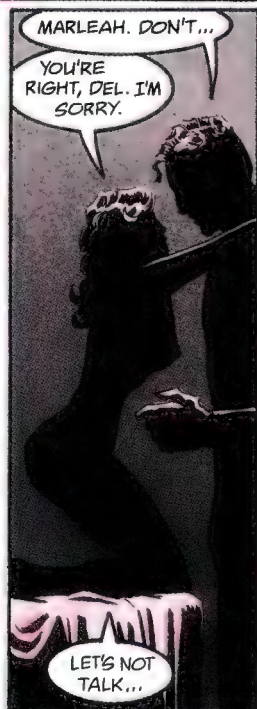
STOP IT.

YOU'RE GOING TO GET BANISHED FOR YOUR STUNTS, YOU KNOW THAT!



YOU SOUND LIKE KRENT! YOU SAID YOU LIKED ME WILD.

I WON'T LEAVE YOU FOR SOME ALIEN.



MARLEAH. DON'T...

YOU'RE RIGHT, DEL. I'M SORRY.

LET'S NOT TALK...



SEEMS LIKE HE'S BEEN GONE *FOREVER*. HARD TO IMAGINE HIM LIVING HERE ALL THE TIME.

DON'T BE AN IDIOT, ALANNA... YOU ACT LIKE YOU THINK HE'S NOT COMING BACK...



WHY WOULDN'T HE? HE LOVES ME. THE BABY...

I HOPE FATHER'S RIGHT. IT'S GOT TO BE HEALTHY.



I WONDER IF THIS IS HOW MY MOTHER FELT ABOUT ME...



WHY WON'T YOU PEOPLE GO AWAY?!



DON'T GET WORKED UP.



THE BABY'S STILL NOT DUE FOR A WHILE, BUT FATHER SAID EXCITEMENT COULD ACCELERATE THAT.

ADAM, PLEASE COME BACK. NOW.

THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL
PLANET. VERY RICH
AND WILD.

HARD TO BELIEVE
ANYONE WOULD
WANT TO LEAVE
IT FOREVER.

DOESN'T MATTER.
DECISION'S MADE.
I'M COMMITTED
TO A BABY, A WIFE
AND FATHER-IN-
LAW...

AND A WHOLE
WORLD THAT
ADMIRES ME...
RIGHT?

WHO'LL MISS ME
HERE ANYWAY?

I WAS NEVER A
PART OF THIS
WORLD. SUPER-
HEROES OR
OTHERWISE...

JANEY SURE
DOESN'T NEED
ME. NOW SHE
CAN HAVE A
LIFE...

FACE IT. I
BLEW IT
COMING BACK
TO MY FAMILY.

WILL I DO
ANY BETTER
THERE?


I HAVE TO.

I WILL.

LET'S JUST
HOPE THIS
"MEGA" BEAM
IS AS EASY
A TRIP AS
SARDATH
SAYS.

BYE, EARTH.
IT WAS FUN.

ONCE OR
TWICE.



OH GOD!!!
WHAT IS THIS?!...
aaah... THE
PAIN...

EEAA!!
SARDATH SAID...
WOULDN'T...
HURT...

CAN'T
BREATHE!!

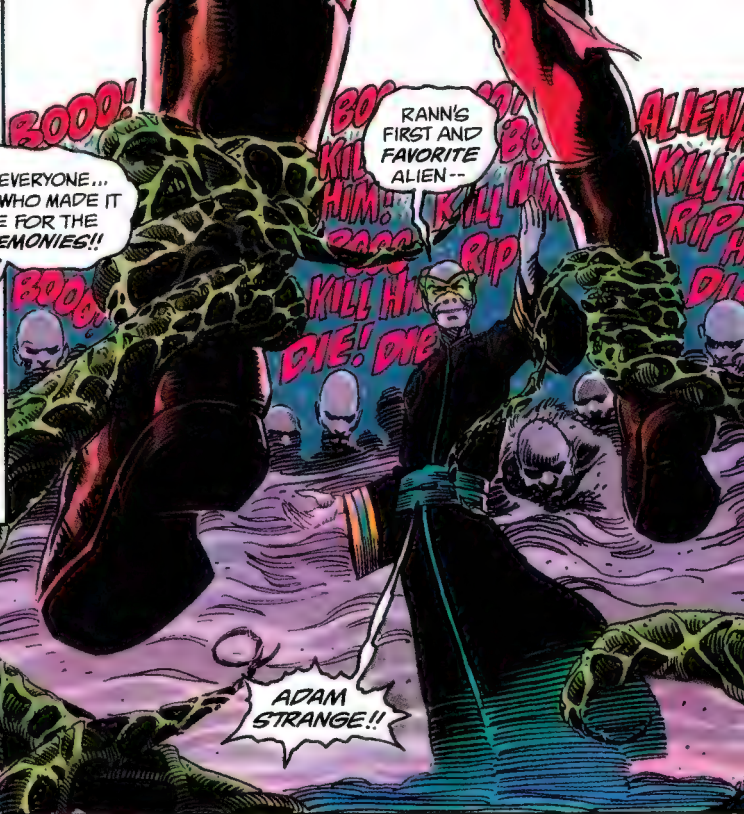
GAHH- AH...
DAMN YOU,
SARDATH!

LIHH... BEING
RIPPED APART!
STOP!!

WELCOME
HOME, SON!



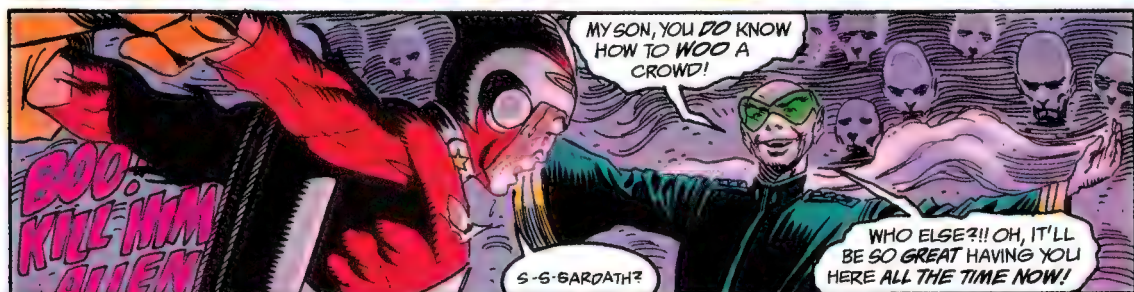
HEY, EVERYONE...
LOOK WHO MADE IT
HOME FOR THE
CEREMONIES!!



RANN'S
FIRST AND
FAVORITE
ALIEN--

KILL HIM!
DIE! DIE!

ADAM
STRANGE!!



MY SON, YOU DO KNOW
HOW TO WOO A
CROWD!

BOOO!
KILL HIM
ALIEN

S-S-SARDATH?

WHO ELSE?! OH, IT'LL
BE SO GREAT HAVING YOU
HERE ALL THE TIME NOW!



YOU KNOW, SOME
DOUBTED YOU'D
RETURN. :tsk tsk:

BUT NOT I.
I KNOW YOU
TOO WELL.

WAS I NOT
THE FIRST TO
BEFRIEND
YOU?



YES... NO...
ALANNA!

ALANNA!



THAT
SLUT!

I LOVE
HER.

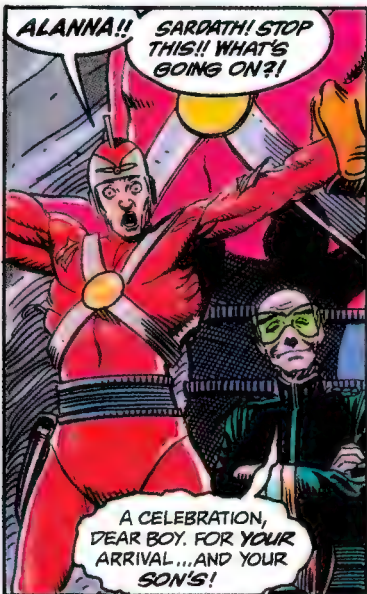
OF COURSE.
SHE'S MY
DAUGHTER
DEAREST.





UH... A-
ADAM??

AREN'T
YOU,
DEAR?



ALANNA!!
SARDATH! STOP
THIS!! WHAT'S
GOING ON?!

A CELEBRATION,
DEAR BOY. FOR YOUR
ARRIVAL... AND YOUR
SON'S!



MY SON?!
HE'S BORN!!!
WHERE IS
HE?!

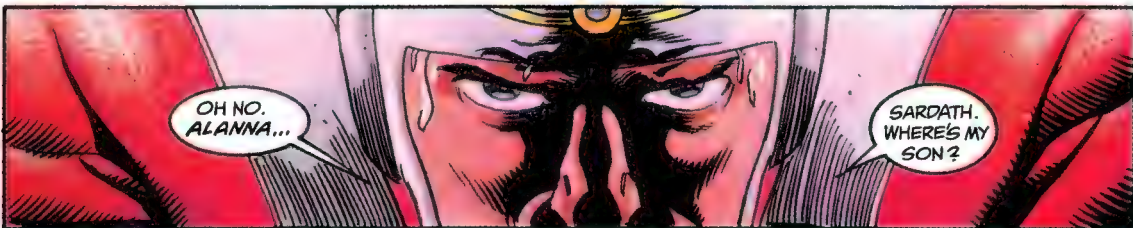
WELL,
I MUST
EXPLAIN...



YOU KNOW HOW
INQUISITIVE I GET.
ALWAYS IN THE NAME
OF SCIENCE, OF
COURSE.

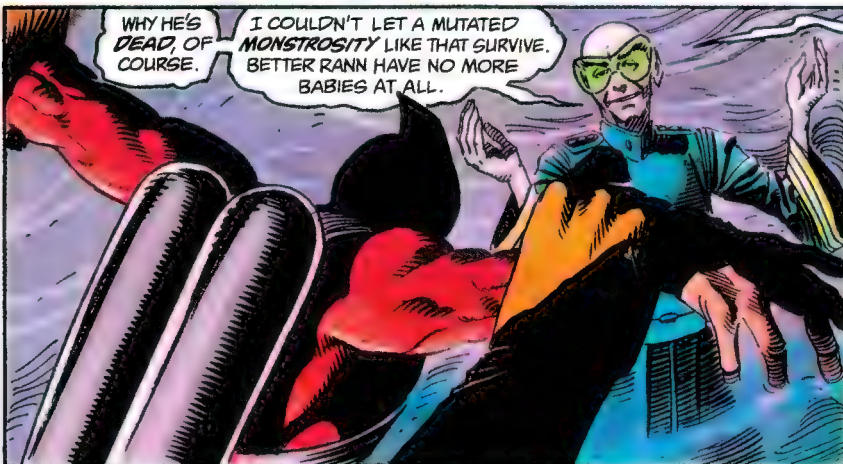
ANYWAY, I HELPED
THE LITTLE BUGGER
EMERGE A BIT
EARLY.

WAS A
BIT MESSY,
THO'.



OH NO.
ALANNA...

SARDATH.
WHERE'S MY
SON?



WHY HE'S
DEAD, OF
COURSE.

I COULDN'T LET A MUTATED
MONSTROSITY LIKE THAT SURVIVE.
BETTER RANN HAVE NO MORE
BABIES AT ALL.



WANT TO SEE
WHAT'S LEFT
OF JUNIOR?

OH LORD...
STOP THIS...



PLEASE...
PLEASE...



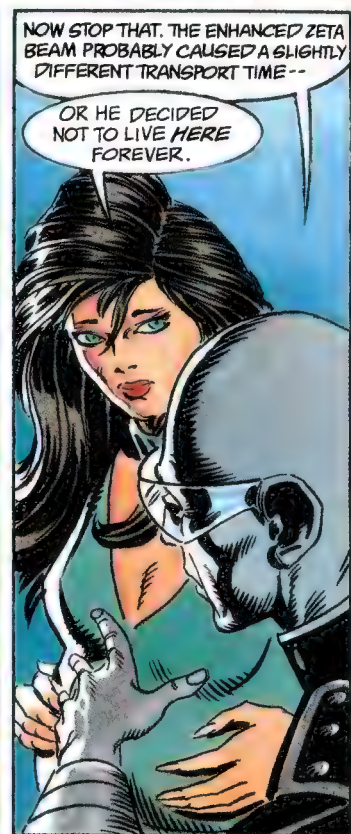
NO SIGN
YET, EH?

I BECAME
CONCERNED WHEN
YOU TWO DIDN'T
COME HOME



ALANNA. DON'T CRY.
IT'S UNSEEMLY.

HE'S NOT
COMING.
EVER.



NOW STOP THAT. THE ENHANCED ZETA
BEAM PROBABLY CAUSED A SLIGHTLY
DIFFERENT TRANSPORT TIME --

OR HE DECIDED
NOT TO LIVE *HERE*
FOREVER.



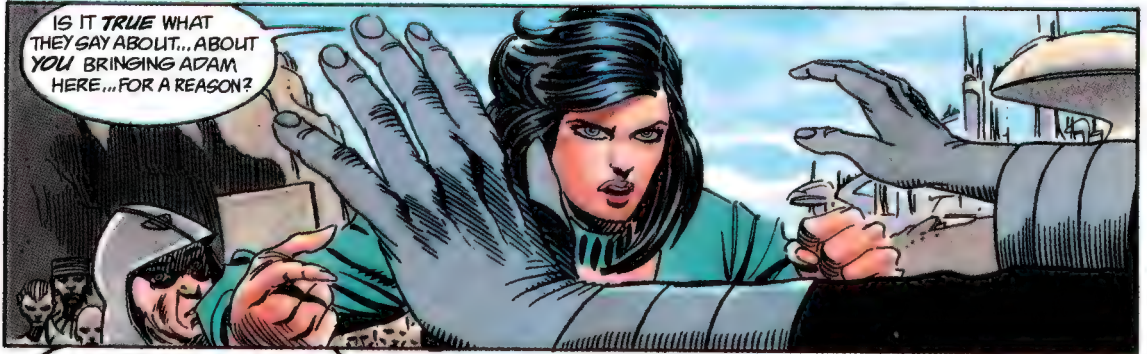
DON'T BE FOOLISH,
CHILD. PERHAPS HE WAS
UNAVOIDABLY DETAINED.
THERE'S STILL ANOTHER
BEAM, YOU KNOW
THAT.



I KNOW
ONLY WHAT
YOU TELL
ME.

DADDY,
WHAT ELSE
HAVE YOU
LIED ABOUT?

WHA...?!





SO YOU
DIDN'T PAN OUT.
I TRIED.

STILL, THERE'S
PLENTY OF OTHER
FISH IN THE SEA!

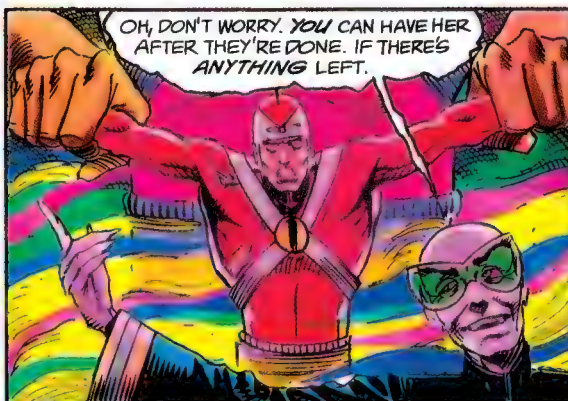


NNNNNOOOOO...
NOOOOOOOO!

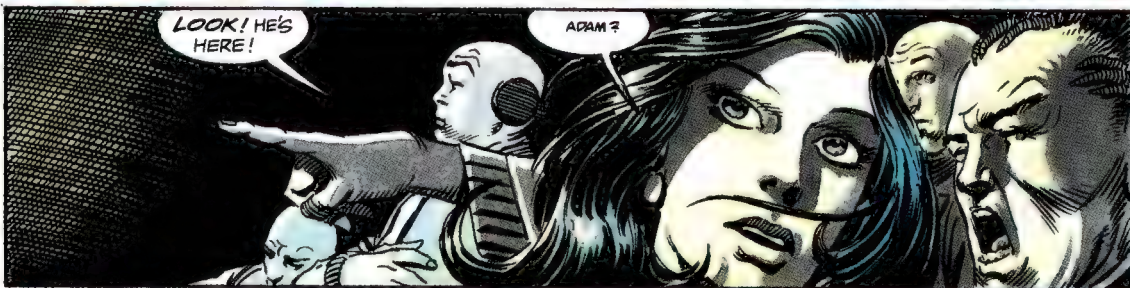
MAYBE ONE OF
THESE CREATURES
WILL GET OUR RACE
GOING AGAIN.

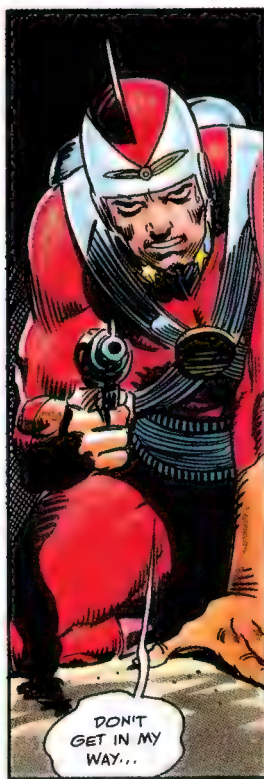
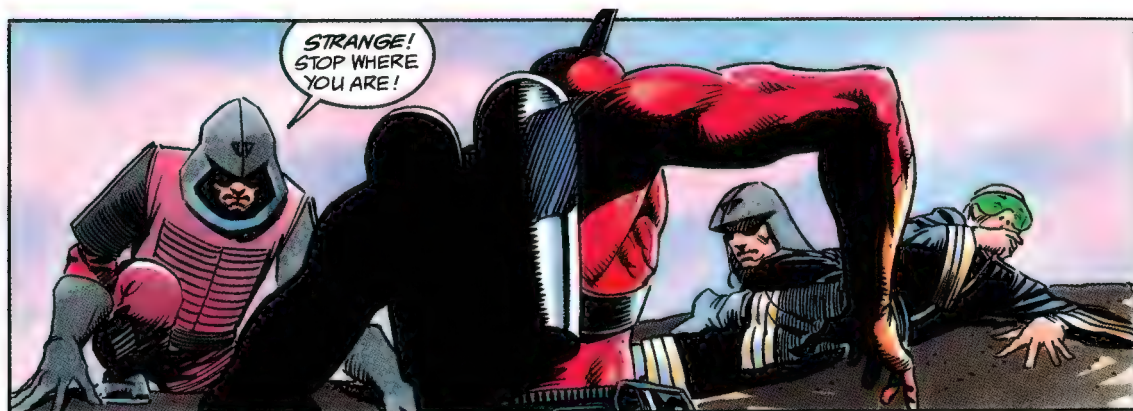


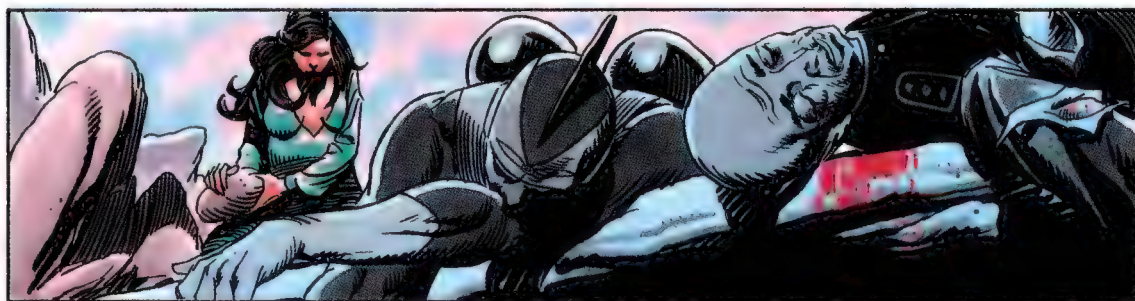
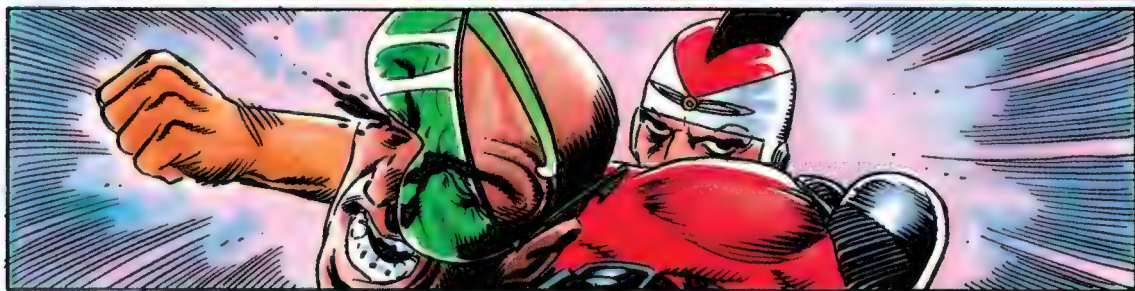
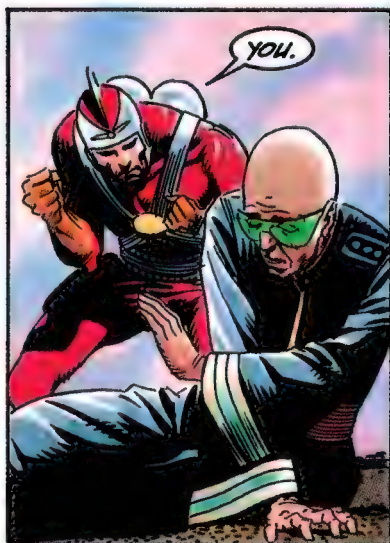
SARDATH!!!

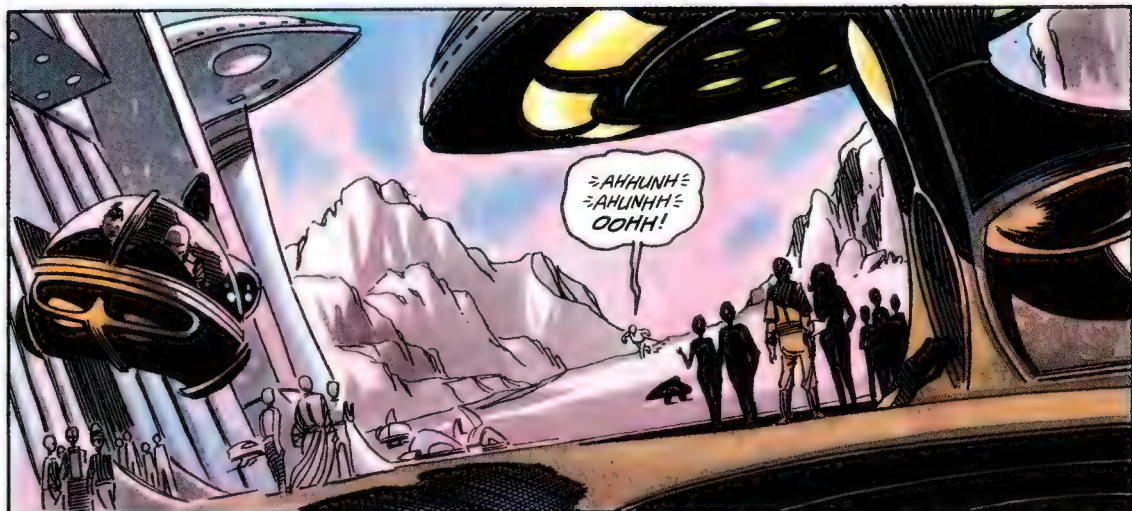


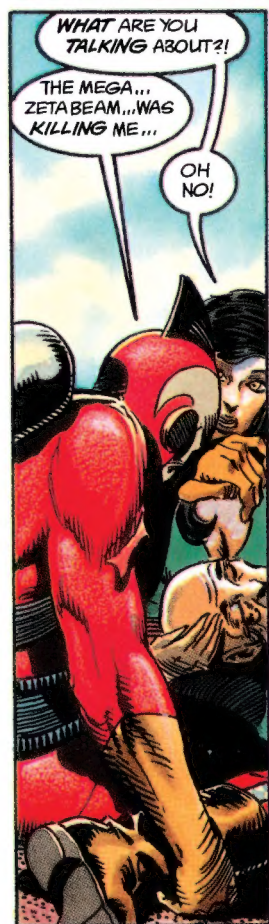
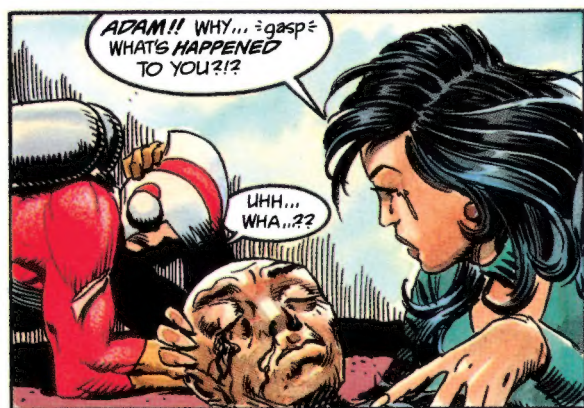
OH, DON'T WORRY. YOU CAN HAVE HER
AFTER THEY'RE DONE. IF THERE'S
ANYTHING LEFT.

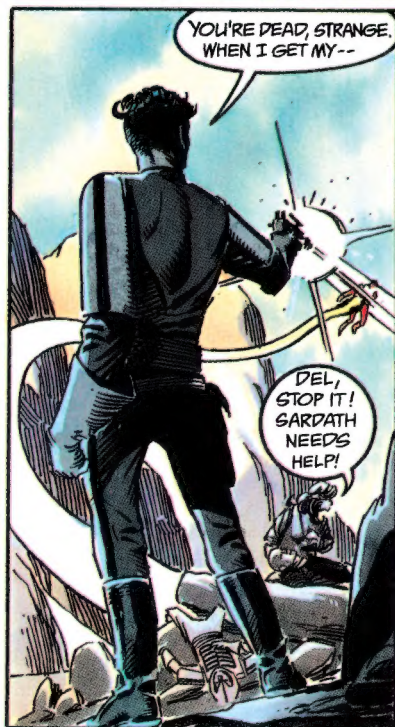
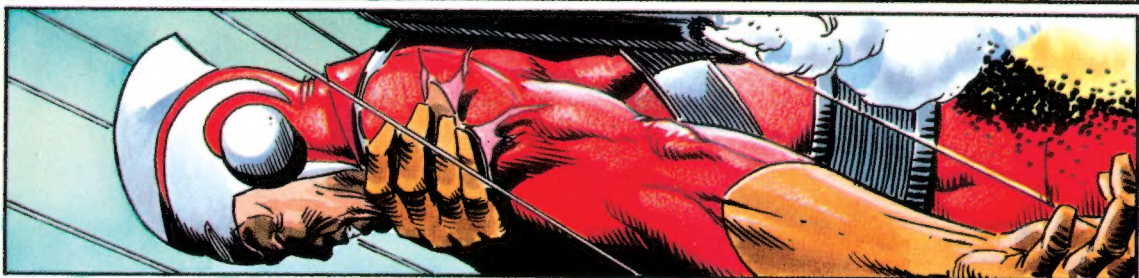






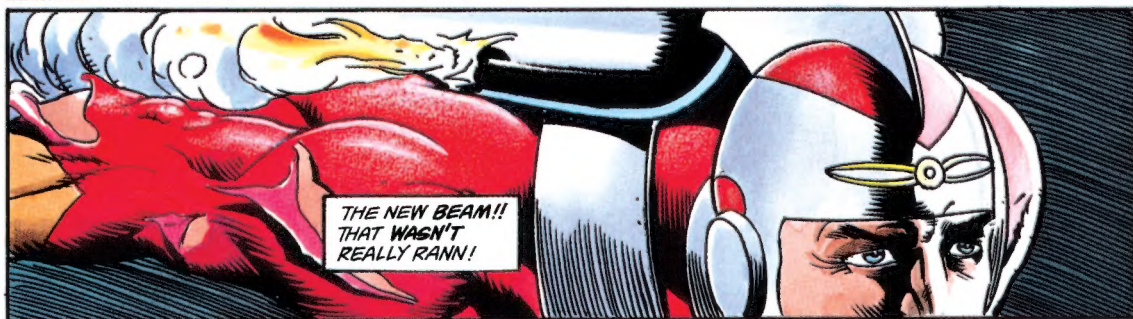




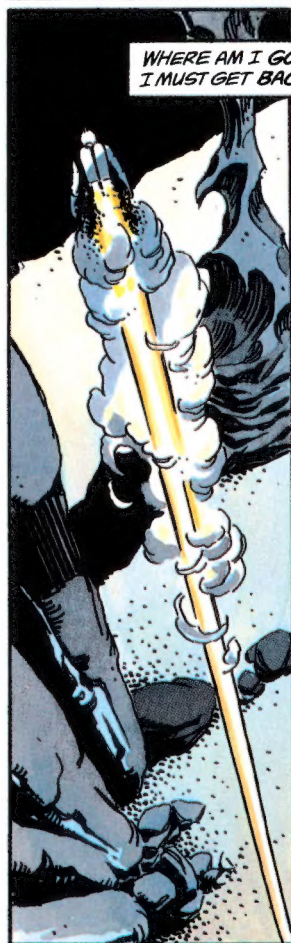




HAVE I LOST MY
MIND? I WANTED
TO KILL HIM!



THE NEW BEAM!!
THAT WASN'T
REALLY RANN!



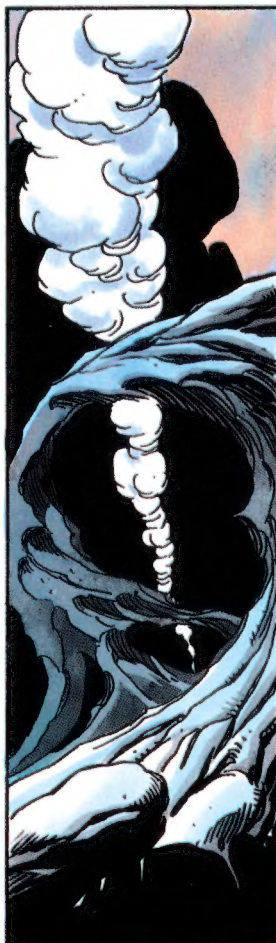
WHERE AM I GOING?
I MUST GET BACK...



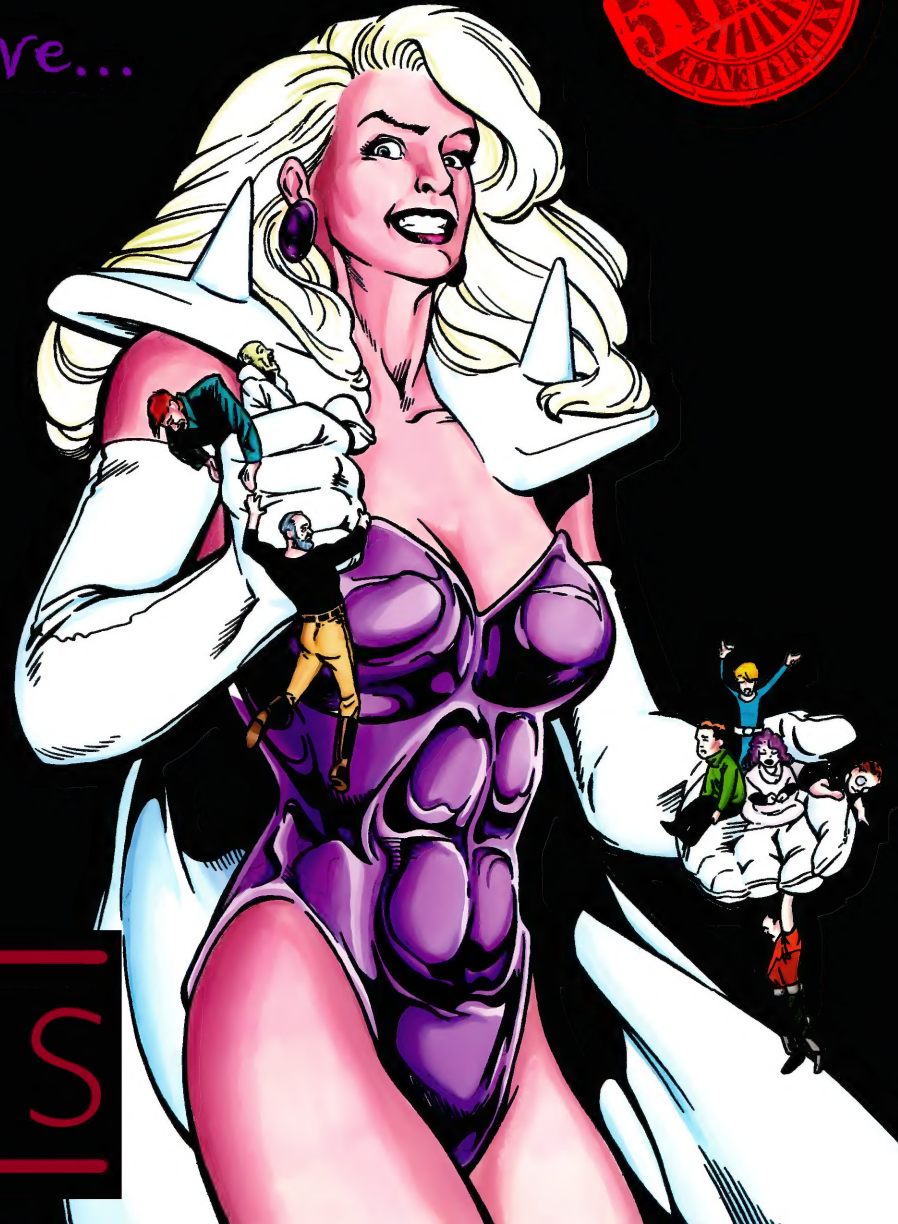
I'VE GOT TO
EXPLAIN SOMEHOW...



WHA?...
NO!!!



From Baaldur, with love...



GLORITH

NOVUS